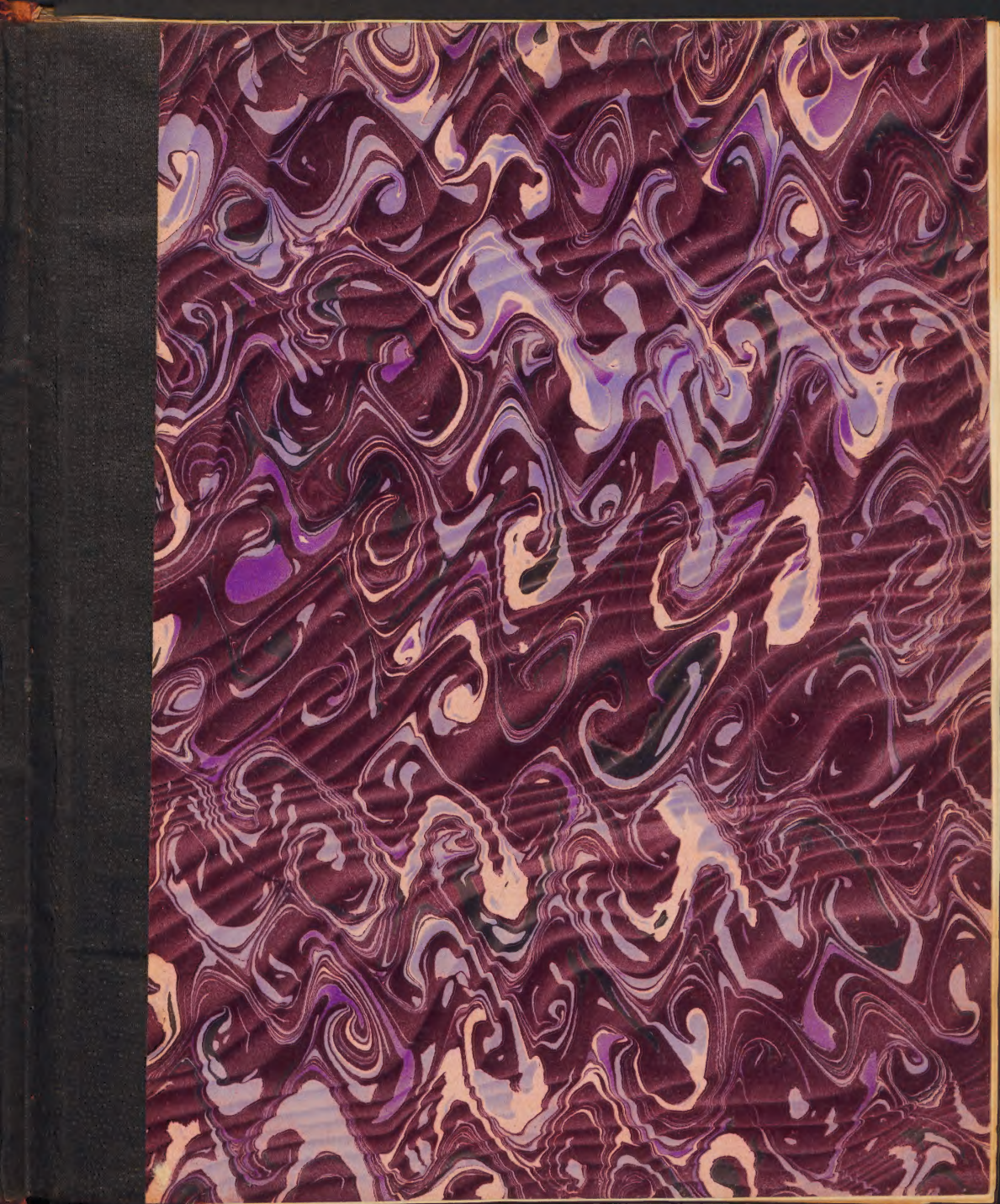


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58-97.41.2 (12)

All important systematic notes are copied into
"Systematic Notes, Vols.1-68." I copied all the
notes and they are all checked.

Walter Deane, June 10, 1899.

William Brewster

1
Cambridge, Mass.



Cambridge, Mass.



1898

Feb. 7

Cambridge, Mass.

Clear, still and mild.

Shortly after noon I took a walk about our garden on snow shoes. The sun light, reflected from the deep, unbroken field of snow, was very dazzling. As I was passing near a young scarlet oak, still covered almost as densely with foliage as in midsummer, I discovered an Acadian Owl perched near the extremity of a long, horizontal branch about nine feet above the ground. How he chanced to attract my eye is a mystery for there were no small birds about to betray his presence and he was sitting perfectly motionless in the very middle of a cluster of tan-colored leaves which matched his plumage closely.

Acadian Owl
in our
garden.

When I returned with my camera an hour later he had not changed his perch nor even his attitude. I took a number of photographs some of which show his position and facial expression better than I can describe them. Walter Deane and Gilbert were with me and we all walked around and were beneath the tree without appearing to disturb the bird. He seemed to be very drowsy sitting, most of the time, on one leg with the other drawn up under his feathers and his eyes nearly closed although a sudden movement on the part of one of us would occasionally cause him to open his eyes wide for a moment. He was sensitive to certain sounds but paid no attention to our voices.

After I had exposed all my plates we put up a ladder directly under the tree and Gilbert, ascending it, had his hand within a few inches of the Owl when the ladder gave way and fell with a crash striking against some of the branches in its descent.

Cambridge, Mass.

Notes on

a Captive

Saw-whet

1898.

Feb. 7

(No. 2)

The loud noise and the agitation of the tree startled the bird considerably but instead of flying as we all expected, he would do he merely bent forward and gazed intently down at the prostrate man and ladder. He remained motionless for a few moments after which Walter, going around to the opposite side of the tree and waving the camera slowly, succeeded in attracting the Owl's attention while Gilbert again climbed the ladder and slowly extending his hand from beneath and a little the bird caught it by the feet. It snapped its bill sharply and rapidly when seized. I put it into a large cage where it remained quiet until night fall after which it fluttered a good deal against the wires. A dead House Sparrow which I left in the cage was untouched the next morning.

On looking closely about the garden I found on the snow beneath a red cedar numerous feathers from the wings, tail and body, of a House Sparrow and beneath the hollow, vine-encrusted trunk of an old apple tree a very small pellet composed of

" 13

The Saw-whet is still alive and apparently healthy. He is rapidly becoming tame and no longer flutters against the bars of his cage. The House Sparrow lay untouched in the cage for four days when it was removed. A dead white mouse was substituted and promptly eaten (all but the head) on the following night. Yesterday at about noon the bird gave the saw-whetting call at frequent intervals for an hour or more the weather, at the time being dark & cloudy. He called again at noon to-day when the sun was shining brightly. At close

Cambridge, Mass.

1897
Feb. 13
(no 2)

Notes on
A captive
Saw-whet.

range (the cage is about 15 feet from my desk) the sound has little or no metallic quality and bears only the most remote resemblance to saw filing. On the contrary it may be best described as a soft & low but rather throaty whistle very like that of Glaucoideus. It also suggests the purr of Hyla pickeringi but is much less ^{clear} bell-like and is on a lower key. It is given very rapidly and evenly as a rule & the number of repetitions is very variable. Twice or thrice I have heard a prolonged, monosyllabic note more metallic in quality than the ordinary call but otherwise similar.

" 14

The Saw-whet was unusually active this morning and during the forenoon kept flying from perch to perch but it did not appear to be in the least frightened or unhappy. At about 11 A. M. it "whistled" twice, but briefly and in subdued tones. At 3 P. M. I found it crouched on the bottom of the cage evidently very ill. Someone suggested that a smell of fresh paint, which pervaded the room at the time, might be the cause. We accordingly took the bird out of doors but it expired only a few minutes later. Its death struggle was as violent as that of a bird that had been shot. It fluttered half across the cage and at the last beat the floor vigorously with its wings. On dissecting it I failed to detect any signs of internal injury or disease. The stomach was empty but the bird was not emaciated. It was a male with testes as large as #1 shot.

Death of
the Saw-whet

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1898.

March 1

Rain but not cold with light S. wind and warm sunlight coming through a veil of thin clouds. Ther. 28° at sunrise.

At about 11 A. M. I heard a Purple Finch singing in the garden and soon afterwards caught sight of the bird, a fine, young male sitting in the top of a willow near the museum. It did not give the full song but warbled in low, somewhat broken tones at intervals of a minute or two, for ten or twelve minutes at the end of which it flew into the top of a cedar where it joined five other birds of the same species but all in the gray plumage. The flock continued in this ten for sometime feeding on the juniper berries. A little later I saw the young male bathing in a puddle of melted snow near the garden walk. It must have been a chilly bath but the bird performed its ablutions very thoroughly not ceasing until its plumage was completely drenched. R. H. Howe Jr. has seen Purple Finches at intervals through January and February in Brooklyn but these are the first that have appeared in Cambridge.

Purple

Finches

Common

Where are the Cedar-birds? A small flock was seen in Belmont in December and Lory met with a very large flock (upwards of 100) at Wellesley Hills early in the winter but if the usual February flight has come up from the South none of its numbers have visited this winter dipter neighborhood for had they done so they would surely have appeared in our garden. My Parkman's apple has a good crop of fruit and some of the hawthorns are covered with berries.

Common of

Red-birds

Cambridge & Belmont, Mass.

1898.

March 2

A brilliant day, cloudless, with almost no wind, the early morning sharp & frosty, the middle of the day warm for the season.

I drove to the Payson place this morning to make inquiries respecting the fine Great Gray Owl which Fessenden sold me a week or so ago. Mr. Malone told me that he shot it at about 2 P.M. on February 22nd. During the whole forenoon the Crows had been making a great outcry behind his house and their numbers kept increasing until as he thinks upwards of 100 birds were assembled. Their clamor finally became so loud and incessant as to annoy him seriously and soon after dinner he took a Flaubert rifle and went out to disperse them. Immediately behind his house is a row of tall Norway Spruces, behind this an old apple orchard and just beyond the orchard a dense growth of Norway Spruces, Laurels and arbutus trees encircling an open space in the middle of which are the stables and paddock of the fine old Cushing estate. A circular driveway passes under or through the trees which average 50 or 60 feet in height. Between the driveway and the paddock, in the middle of the thickest Spruces, stands a white pine - a vigorous tree with a full, green top but with dead under branches. The Owl was perched on one of these dead branches about 25 ft. above the ground and soon fell far below a fork in which there is an old Crow's nest.

Great Gray
Owl shot
on the
Payson place

As Malone approached the Spruces he saw great numbers of Crows sitting on or flying over them and picking out a bird that offered a good meal.

1898

March 2

(no 2)

he fired at it but missed. A few moments later a woman, who had come from the Payson farm house, impelled by curiosity to find out what the Crows were about, called to him that she had found a great Owl and asked him to shoot it. On going to the spot he at once saw the bird sitting erect and looking, he says, "as big as an Eagle". It stared at him fixedly with its yellow eyes wide open but showed no alarm at his presence although he went almost directly under the branch on which it was perched. After looking at it for a moment he fired but missed. At his second shot the bird flew across the paddock and alighted on the end of a spruce limb but it was badly wounded and soon fluttered down to the ground where it stood erect ~~looking~~ presenting a unvarying appearance that Malcom did not dare touch it for several minutes. It lived two or three hours after this.

The Payson place is going to destruction fast now. Decades of Malcom tells us that the Syndicate who bought it for speculation purposes care nothing about the trees (which is evident enough) and take no pains to keep out grubs. He himself has killed twelve Gray Squirrels there during the past year. He says that he has seen one Pouter and several Carolina Doves there. A Meadow Lark was singing steadily this morning on the great lawn and in the apple orchard I saw a pair of Chickadees inspecting & entering holes. There was a Boy & Purple Finch in our garden through the forenoon.

1898

Cambridge & vicinityMarch 12

The last week of February was mild with cloudy skies and a good deal of rain; the first ten days of March have been sunny and warm with almost no wind and on several days literally none from morning to night. The thermometer has gone almost or quite to 60° on several occasions but the ground has frozen slightly at night up to March 8th since when there has been no frost. Under the influence of these conditions the immense body of snow that fell during the first half of February has wasted steadily but at no time very rapidly. A week ago the ground was bare on southern exposures & in many places in the open fields. Now there is no snow left excepting on northern slopes, behind walls & under overhangs. The roads are perfectly dry, there is almost no frost in the ground and the grass is uniformly green in sheltered sunny spots and in springy runs in the fields.

The first Crocus bloomed in front of the Museum on the 7th, the first snow deep on the 10th.

The change
from winter
to early
spring

First Crocus

Three Bluebirds were seen in Weston, Feb. 24, and two male Redwings at the Glacis, on the 25th. During the first week of March the only animals appear to have been Purple Finches which appeared in one garden on the 1st and have been there every day since in numbers varying from one or two to five or six. On March 9th Lothrop saw a flock of eight or ten Redwings at the Glacis and a friend of his saw a pair of Black Ducks flying over the same place on the evening of the 11th.

Bird
arrivals

Cambridge & vicinity.

1898.

March 12

(No 2)

A fine, warm rain was falling this morning when I started on my usual short drive. On reaching the Maple Swamp I found it alive with Song Sparrows singing and calling and I heard others on the western side of Fresh Pond. C. S. Bailey tells me that there was a general arrival of these Sparrows here last night. I also heard Ten Sparrows in full song and found eight or ten Red-wings scattered about over the Glacialis marshes singing on the tops of ~~the~~ trees and bushes. Beyond Fresh Pond two Flickers were "chattering". Altogether I heard quite a concert of early spring birds and I am inclined to believe that it was the first general concert of the season.

Splumon saw two Goldfinches in Cambridge on the 1st and one appeared in our garden on the 9th and has been seen there every day since but the first flock was reported by W. Deane this morning—five or six birds in the pines on the Charney Smith place.

Bailey tells me that he saw a Phoebe at Dedden on the 9th and two birds, apparently a mated pair, in the same locality on the 10th.

Fresh Pond is still covered in ice but the ice looks thin and rotten and will doubtless break up within a few days. A solitary Gull was flying over the pond and I saw several flocks of Gulls on their way there later in the day.

March

continued

Commonwealth

1898.

March 15

Cloudless with light N. to N.E. wind - a brilliant day deliciously warm in the sun at noon.

I moved to Concord this morning taking Gilbert with me. When we reached the Rye (where I am to spend the next two weeks) I found Bluebirds, Robins, Song Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds ~~about~~ the house. As we were taking lunch a buzzard and a Downy came to feed on the meat kept for them in the cherry tree and just after lunch the Downy was drumming at his old station in the elm.

We put the new canoe in the water and as it did not hold a drop I went to Ball's Hill in it in the afternoon, Gilbert & Pat preceding me in the old Buttrick boat. The river was very high and it has been so for two weeks or more. It opened about the 7th and Pat tells me that the muskrat hunters began the usual slaughter at about that time & that they have since killed nearly all the "Rats". On the morning of the 10th Pat saw a flock of over 100 Geese in the river directly in front of the cabin. They were making a noise like the croaking of frogs.

I saw no Doves to-day but the bushy banks of the river meadows were alive with Song Sparrows and I should think that fully one-half of the Red-wings have arrived. I heard two Bluebirds croaking and saw a pair of them near Flint's bridge. I started back at 4 P.M. and sailed almost the whole of the way. Red-wings buzzing freely but the Robins were silent.

March 16

1898
March 16

Early morning clear but clouds gathered soon after 7 a. m. and the remainder of the day was gray and cheerless with a chilly S. W. wind and a big shower of hail in the afternoon.

To Ball's Hill for the day, sailing across the meadows both ways. The only water birds seen were a Golden eye and a flock of Horned Grebes, all flying high. Small birds were numerous every where. At various Song Sparrows, Bluebirds, Red-wings, Meadow Larks, Juncos, Tree Sparrows and our Robin were bringing near the house making a full chorus of early spring bird voices. There was, also, a Blue Jay screaming in the pines and Crows were cawing in the distance.

Near Ball's Hill I saw large numbers of Song Sparrows, a good many Tree Sparrows, our Juncos, then a few Chickadees, five Golden-crests and a few Crows.

If the Fox Sparrows are here I failed to find them. Spelman saw one at Arlington on the 13th & found another in Cambridge on the 14th.

Two Downy Woodpeckers have hung about the cabin all winter feeding on meat bones with which Pat has kept them supplied and I saw the ♂ there both yesterday and to-day but the Chickadees were all back in the woods.

Either a Hawk or Owl has killed and eaten a Patteridge lately in some dense young pines on the edge of Swan's ridge. The ground beneath them there is simply covered with the poor bird's feathers, among them many tail feathers. Pat, who has been working near the spot, says that the feathers were not there three days ago.

General Notes.

1898.

March 17

The morning broken calm and cloudy with heavy rain falling. The rain ceased before 10 a. m. and at noon the clouds parted and the sun came out. The afternoon was brilliantly clear with a violent but not cold west wind.

When I left the Hayes at 9 a. m. the wind was just rising and before I reached the cabin it was blowing hard. I sailed the entire distance, crossing the Great Meadows. Song Sparrows and Redwings were singing on every hill and I heard two or three Bluebirds and one Meadow Lark but no Fox Sparrows song although I have heard. I have seen no Ruby Blackbirds as yet.

A Flicker "shouted" several times yesterday afternoon on the West Bedford shore & I heard the same bird there this morning. One Bluebird and one Robin flew over Ball's Hill.

As I was sailing along the shore directly opposite the cabin this morning I started a pair of Wood Ducks from the flooded bushes bordering Lewis' pasture. They flew across the river and in behind Ball's Hill probably alighting in the swamp which is full of water just now.

The violent wind blew the smaller birds & drove them to shelter this afternoon. During a walk over I took through the woods I saw only a Crow, a Blue Jay, a pair of Chickadees, a Kinglet and a few Song Sparrows.

Pat tells me three Gallinules shot four Black Ducks in the Bedford swamp yesterday.

1898

March 17
(Ms 2)

I fear that Partridges will be scarce in my woods this Spring. Thus far I have not seen a single bird. Benson and Pat say that a large Hawk, which has been about all winter and which, from their description, must be a Red-tail, has killed all the birds. It is probably the old, old story - an innocent and useful "Red Hawk" haunting the open meadows in pursuit of mice and conspicuous because of his habit of perching in isolated trees and a smaller Gos-hawk keeping among the dense pines and picking off the Partridges one after another as they come out into the little sunny openings. It is certain that either a Hawk or an Owl killed the Partridge whose feathers I saw yesterday for I found exactly what excrement under the tree and the feathers had all been pecked out not bitten off as would have been the case had a Fox been the murderer. One fact, however, leads me to suspect that it was the work of an Owl, viz. that that the Partridge was killed either on or directly under her roost for the ground under the dense young pines where the feathers lay was thickly strewed with Partridge excrement.

I saw to-day where Rabbits had pulled oaks and young hemlocks and where mice had pulled a cluster of small pitch pines eating, besides the bark, a great quantity of pine needles which had swallowed their excrement green. The Rabbits had worked two feet or more above the ground on the surface of the snow, the mice close to the ground.

Scarcity of
PartridgesThus killed
by Rabbits
& Mice

Crescent, Mass.

1898

March 17

(No 3)

The Rabbits had scored the stems of the trees with broad, deep, furrows like the grooves made by a small gouge but the trees looked by the snow looked as if they had been scraped with a rasp or coarse file.

About one third of the White Maples along the flooded river banks are in full bloom and one to on the day of my arrival. One of my hophornocks had two blossoms partly open to-day. The grass is green in many places and there is no frost in the ground excepting on the north slopes of the hills or in dense woods. The ice is almost wholly gone even in the wooded swamps. Altogether the season is unusually far advanced for this date.

Where are the Fox Sparrows? I visited all their favorite haunts in this locality to-day without seeing a bird.

Squirrels appear to be very scarce. Thus far I have seen only one, a Coys Gray, but Gilbert saw a Chipmunk on the 14th in the wooded road leading to Bennett's from the old school house and Pat says that there are two Grays & a Red living near the cabin.

The wind lasted well into the night and blew so strongly late in the afternoon that I did not attempt to get back to Concord but spent the night at the cabin.

1898

March 18

A brilliantly clear day with fresh W. wind which died away an hour or more before sunset.

I was out a little after sunrise this morning and took a turn over Ball's Hill and along the river path. The ground was frozen hard and the air was sharp and bracing. Song Sparrows and Red-wings were singing in every direction, a Flicker was chattering and a Downy Woodpecker drumming on the Redford above. Crows were cawing and creaking, every now and then a Bluebird warbled in the distance and over a Cow-bird flew overhead giving the long spring whistle. But I listened in vain for drumming Partridges, cooing Doves or the songs of Zen and Fox Sparrows. Altogether the early morning singing was disappointing.

As we were eating breakfast a very large Red Squirrel visited the meat box hanging in the oak by the cabin door and helped himself liberally. A few minutes after he had gone another and smaller one, doubtless his mate, appeared and took his turn at the box.

After breakfast I climbed the canoe and paddled down river hugging the wooded western shore to keep out of the wind as well as for the pleasure of exploring all the pretty little coves and channels which the present high stage of water makes so accessible and attractive.

At the eastern end of Ball's Hill I saw a large Gray Squirrel feeding on the buds of a maple tree.

1898

March 18

(No 2.)

stood on the edge of the water and at the southern extremity of Davis's Hill I found them of these animals similarly employed. Two of them were in a tree that was entirely surrounded by water and so far from shore that I thought at first that they must have reached it by swimming. But as I approached they galloped at full speed along a horizontal branch and leaped across a space fully six feet in width to the end of a long branch ~~there stretched~~ ^{one} from one of the trees on the shore only just catching the slender terminal twigs with their fore paws but quickly raising themselves by them and gaining the upper side of the branch. It was a remarkably clever feat for such comparatively heavy animals.

On reaching the lower end of Davis's Hill I saw several flocks of Ducks swimming near the middle of the river between Brick Island and Carlisle Bridge. They proved to be all Golden-eyes and rather more than half were old drakes. I counted 32 birds when they rose which they did the moment my canoe came in full sight although I was more than half-a-mile away but after circling high in air they alighted again further off. By keeping close in shore behind points & islands I got within one quarter of a mile the next time when they went off down river & I saw no more of them.

I landed at Swifts place and walked

1898.

March 18
(No 3)

through the woods where I heard a Brown Creeper to the open farming land beyond where Song Sparrows were singing and a Bluebird, balancing on the topmost spray of an isolated apple tree, was pouring out his very soul in tender, plaintive warbling. Again and again, dozens of times in quick succession or at intervals of a half-minute or so, his rich notes came to my delighted ears; now clear, pure and exquisitely unadorned, next muffled by the rustling wind that swept the gray-brown fields. It is not often that one can hear a Bluebird on his very best and this is the first time that I have had the privilege the present season.

Strolling back through the woods by another path I saw a fine Antiope Butterfly and found a sandy place literally carpeted with stag-horn ground pine.

On reaching the river I at once set sail for the great Bedford Swamp skimming across at great speed before the strong breeze. I found the big pines all standing but there were no Red-tails there and no Black Ducks in the little meadows behind the pines.

Near the head of the large meadow with the pines I came upon Gallant sitting out a number of decoys. They were exceedingly well affairs saved out of barrels & made to show an profile but he assured me that they would not any with and that Ducks often

1898.

March 18

(no 4)

alighted among or upon in to them. He says that between fifty and one hundred Black Ducks have come into this meadow every evening of late and that he killed three there last evening. George Holden, whom I met later, confirmed this statement as to the evening flights.

After dining at the cabin I walked about on the sides of Ball's Hill for an hour or more. The damage which the Rabbits have done to my shrubs and young trees the past winter exceeds anything that has ever happened within my observation before. At the eastern end of the hill hundreds of wet thousands of trees and shrubs have been injured, and in places several rods square space one has escaped. The species most commonly & generally attacked are the Oaks (Red, Black, Scarlet and Bear), Maples, Hickory, Wild Apple, Sweet Gum, White Hazel (an especial favorite, ^{originally}), Sweet Fern, Pitch Pine & Dogwood (Cornus florida). Only a very few of the common Hazels have been indicated.

One of my plantations is ruined. The teeth marks show that the Rabbit always bites across the stem, never up and down, and that it invariably works about the level of the snow. It apparently never backs white pines, ^{or birches} & these are almost the only trees found here which enjoy complete immunity from its attacks. I started a Rabbit from its form in the center of the devastated tract this afternoon.

Tree killed
by Rabbits

Concord, Mass.

1898.
March 18
(no 5)

I left the cabin for Concord before 4 P.M. and paddling slowly followed the shore line across Barrett's meadows and around behind Holden's Hill. The wind had fallen to a gentle breeze and the air was soft and warm reminding me of that of an afternoon in early October. Another and most unexpected reminder of autumn was the ^{autumnal} ^{voice} of *Hyla* ^{pelodonta} ^{clay} in the ^{clay} day, fathering call not in the least like the clear, incisive, bell-like spring peeping and coming, as I satisfied myself beyond all possibility of doubt, not from the water's edge but from the dry woods well up on the sides of Holden's Hill. I heard this autumn call a dozen times or more and at at least two different places in these woods. As I have not yet heard the spring peeping I am inclined to believe that at least some of these *Hylas* spend the winter on high ground and that when awakened by the first warm days they give the autumn call before they go into the water to hibernate. Such an occurrence must be uncommon, however, for it has never before come within my experience. (Pat afterwards told me that *Hylas* were peeping over the top of the hill in the swamp near the house.)

As I was passing around the back end of Holden's Hill I started three Fox Sparrows from the bushes at the edge of the water.

All the way up the river Red-wings and Song Sparrows were scattered about peeping freely.

1898

March 18

(no 6)

and I passed one large flock of Red-wings perched in the upper branches of an oak and all singing at once making a drooping but nevertheless widely musical sound.

As I was approaching the Minute Man I saw a bird fly under the bridge and alight on one of the rafters. It proved to be a Phoebe which broke out into four say a few minutes after I had passed the place.

A Robin was singing steadily in the big elm near my landing just below the old bridge and I heard him at intervals for half-an-hour later from my open windows.

Where are the Rusty Blackbirds? I have not seen one lately nor do I get.

At Ball's Hill early this afternoon I saw a Herring Gull (one of two that came from down river) hover at a height of about twenty feet and closing its wings descend headlong like a Tern striking the water with great force and disappearing beneath the surface for at least three seconds. When it came up it floated on the water for a few minutes before taking wing again. I could not see that it had anything in its bill.

Herring Gull
divers like
a Tern.

1898.
March 19

Cloudy with fresh south-west wind and heavy rain through the forenoon.

I sailed all the way down river this morning through a pouring rain which did not appear to depress the birds, at least the Red-wings and Song Sparrows, which were singing freely every where.

While I was writing in the cabin early in the forenoon a Fox Sparrow appeared in the path in front of the door and began eating the hemp seed which I have thrown down to attract the birds and which has been hitherto visited by only a few Song Sparrows.

Just after dinner the unmistakable sound of Whistlers' wings came in through the open door and rushing out I saw a flock of seven or three Ducks, closely followed by a pair, pass high overhead and out of sight into the mist that hung over the Great Meadows.

An immense flock of Red-wings were singing in clumps (or swells, rather) on the Redford shore opposite the cabin. From where I sat inside the door the sound closely resembled that of cooing them. I also heard Rusty Black birds and an Osprey.

There was a Herring Gull flying about over the mouth of the Mill Brook when I started this morning.

1898

March 19

(MS2)

At about 5 P.M. as I was on the point of starting for Concord I heard a Hairy Woodpecker call on the ridge behind the cabin. Going to the spot I started the bird from an oak. It was exceedingly shy and seemed to be as much alarmed at my presence as would have been a deer or a hawk. There was a Downy Woodpecker in the same tree.

A Shrike was perched on the top of a maple by the river when I passed off in the corner. I was struck by its graceful, high-bred bearing as it tilted lightly on the slender perch looking keenly around.

I had died the whole way up river being a number of Tree Sparrows (one of which sang a few times to the river) and a great many Red-wings and Song Sparrows.

Some one was shooting at musk rats all day among the flooded thickets near Dakin's Mill. I heard that George Holden has killed about twenty and sold about fifty thus far, all below Flint's bridge. He I saw once on my way up river this evening and heard two others giving their warning call.

1898.

March 20

Early morning gray; remainder of day clear with the most violent N. W. wind that we have had this month.

At sunrise a Robin, a Meadow Lark, a Flicker, and several Song Sparrows were singing near the house and I also heard Blue Jays and a Nuthatch. The Meadow Lark gave me a delightful serenade which lasted fifteen or twenty minutes. He was very near - apparently on the lawn near the pagoda - and I had a rare opportunity to study the various changes and modulations of his song. These are the renderings that I noted at the time: T'sit, Tsao - tsit; Tsao, tsit - tsin; tsao - tsao; tsao, tsao - tsao - e; tsao, tsao - tsin; tsao, tsao - tsao; tsao, tsao - tsao. After he had flown away to another and more distant field I heard him give the flight song and for the first time it reminded me of the song of the Flycatcher.

At 10 A. M. I started down river making very rapid progress under my little Horn sail. Saw four Herring Gulls flying over Great Meadows. Spent the day at or near the cabin. Two Fox Sparrows feeding on the seed which we keep on the bank in front of the door. They were alone and very tame. Several Song Sparrows with them.

The wind blew a living gale all the afternoon and I had given up all thought of attempting to get back to Concord when it began to abate and I finally started about 6.30 and paddled up in an hour. Before starting I took a walk

1898.
March 20
(No 2)

around the eastern end of Ball's Hill starting a Partridge and seeing fifteen or twenty Robins flying in to the old spring house in the dinner, bushy pines on the edge of the swamp. They all came across the river from the N. Bedford farm. Several of them sang for a minute or two before going to sleep. I do not think that they congregate at this house in spring excepting when there is a strong N.W. wind.

As I was returning around the end of the ridge I heard a prodigious crashing and thumping among the dry leaves in the basal thickets on the hillside. They next instant two Rabbits appeared and passed me within a few yards. One, a very large one, appeared to be chasing the other, a much smaller animal. Presently they separated, taking different directions the larger one coming back past me. It seemed to be in a playful mood darting hither & thither in the most erratic way and occasionally running very swiftly in a half circle. I was astonished at the ease with which it thrust its way through the dense brush and also at the suddenness with which it would stop when going at full speed. I had not before realized how active and playful a Rabbit may be when quite at its ease and unconscious of danger.

I found D. C. F. much at the Hayes' and we had a long talk about old times before going to bed.

1898.

March 21

A foggy day with occasional brief intervals of sunshine and a light N. W. wind. The temperature has been mild & remarkably uniform for the past week, although the 18th was warmer than any of the days that preceded or followed it.

To Ball's Hill by canoe at 9 A. M. Sailing most of the way. Spent the forenoon at the cabin. Hair Baiting down soon after dinner and we took a walk together. Birds were silent and inconspicuous. We started two Partridges, a ♂ and ♀, near Davis's Hill.

As we were crossing Bensusan's pasture we saw a Shrike perched on an apple tree. A moment later he started and flew directly towards us skimming close over the ground. When within a few rods he checked his speed evidently with the intention of alighting but at the same instant a large insect, probably a beetle, and no doubt the object that had attracted his attention, rose in a spiral course to a height of three or four feet when it was caught by the Shrike who followed its course with remarkable accuracy and outstuck and seized it with the precise apparent ease of a hawk. He put it off in his bill to a few feet as he was at hand.

Shrike
catches a
flying insect

A dozen or more Hylas were peeping in Davis's house this afternoon and I also heard a Wood Frog apparently Howe Frog in the river.

At 5 P. M. a Great Horned Owl began hooting in the direction of Prescott's place keeping it up for 10 or 15 minutes.

1898.

March 22

Early morning clear with heavy white frost. The sky clouded over by 8 a.m. and a strong S. E. wind rose changing to S. W. and bringing snow, sleet and rain in the late afternoon.

As there were then 7 or 8 sparrows about the cabin all day yesterday I decided to spend the night at Bull's Head hoping to hear them sing this morning. But although I was awoken at day break and out a little after sunrise and although two of the birds remained and came to breakfast on one seed mixture of them would utter more than a low chirp. I heard one the Sparrows sing well, however. There was also a Robin in full song and of course a full chorus of Red-wings and Song Sparrows. But more interesting of all were five White-bellied Swallows which were flying together over the river for half an hour or more (7.30-8 A.M.) feeding & playing.

In the forenoon I tramped about near to the boggy farm where I dug a number of bog-horn wintergreen plants. Saw a Crow and a few Red-wings & Song Sparrows and heard a Blue Jay. Not a Duck of any kind. In the afternoon I saw a flock of about 30 Juncos in the meadow.

A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks appeared early this morning on Holden's Hill and spent the day there watching the woods ring with their wild clamor.

Date in the afternoon I returned to Concord sailing across the meadows & paddling the remainder of the way. Saw four muskrats, all along Hermit's Pond.

1888.

March 23

Cloudy with strong wind S.W. in the early evening, N.W. to N. later in the day.

To Ball's Hill at 9 A.M. sailing down. Heard two meadow larks near the Hayes' and a third just below F. Lint's bridge. The Phoebe was singing at North Bridge and I heard another near Hilditch's boat house where I saw an immature Red-shouldered Hawk perched on a branch over the river.

Spent the day in the woods on and around Ball's Hill making notes. Saw but very few birds - Song Sparrows, Chickadees, Crows, a Kinglet etc. Two Fox Sparrows and a pair of Downy Woodpeckers came to the food at the cabin. Near the crest of Ball's Hill I came upon two Garter Snakes which seemed to be pairing but I disturbed them and they glided into a hole beneath a stump. Also saw a Rabbit which permitted me to approach within ten or four yards. Wood Frogs croaking all the afternoon in one of the small ponds.

A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks (doubtless the birds seen yesterday) were screaming all the forenoon about Holden's Hill and in the afternoon I saw them cackling over Davis's Hill still keeping up their wild music - for music it is to my ears.

At about 6.30 P.M. a Great Horned Owl hooted a dozen times or more in the direction of Holden's Hill.

1898.

March 24

Forenoon sunny but cool; afternoon overcast with chill S. wind.

I spent last night at the cabin and early this morning was delighted to hear a Fox Sparrow singing. He did not really "let himself out" but soon after breakfast I heard a bird, probably the same individual, in full song in the swamp behind Bad's Hill.

Spent the forenoon clearing out the path behind the bird, Gilbert helping me. In the afternoon took a walk to Davis' Hill, flushing two Partridges. The Wood Frogs were making a great clamor in one of the little ponds and in another (the one at the northern base of Bad's Hill) Gilbert called my attention to a small snapping turtle of the large kind which was clinging to the stems of some submerged bushes with its snout just out of water. When I threw a stick into the water near it it drew down its head and gradually sank, out of sight moving so slowly that it was difficult to see that it moved at all.

For several nights past we have heard some unusual gallops across the tin roof of the cabin at about eight o'clock. I have suspected from the first that it was a Flying Squirrel and I became convinced of this last night when I distinctly heard it strike with a thump against the top log before beginning its usual race on the tin.

Returned to Concord late this afternoon under sail.

1898.

March 25 The most perfect day of the month thus far, the sky absolutely clear, the forenoon dead calm, a light and rather soft S. E. wind in the P. M.

There was a hard frost last night and when I got to my canoe at 8.30 this morning I found it surrounded by ice as thick as window-glass.

Yet the air was far from all chill and the sunshine pleasantly warm. I paddled all the way down to Ball's Hill being and hearing great numbers of Song Sparrows and Red-wings. One striking nothing new to my ears. It was evident, however, that a large flight of Robins had arrived during the night for I saw them everywhere in great numbers. There were also two fresh Phalaropes, one at Red Bridge, the other near Benson's. The little flock of White-bellied Swallows observed on the 22nd must have gone on that day for since then I have seen only two one on the 23rd, the other this morning.

On reaching the cabin I learned from Gilbert that there had been five or six Sparrows at the feed bed early in the morning. He also told me that he had started a Whistler from the river in front of the cabin just before I came in sight.

I spent the forenoon in the woods being nothing of particular interest. At noon a Sharp-shinned Hawk (the first) showed briefly a number of times in the river near our door.

Cambridge, Mass.

1898

March 26

Clear with chills & wind.

Spent the day in Cambridge. There seemed to be but few birds there. A Robin and a Purple Finch were the only native birds I saw in the garden and to this meager list I added only another Robin during the drive to Peter's Station late in the afternoon.

Michael told me, however, that Grackles have been very numerous during the past week. On one occasion he counted thirty feeding on the ground in one garden.

1898.

March 27

Cloudy or at least overcast May all day with light but chilly S. E. wind.

Spent the forenoon at the Sonnas and in walking about through the fields and orchards near our house. A Mithalite calling what-ohat-ohat. Bluebirds, Song Sparrows, Red-wings and a Robin singing.

In the afternoon paddled down river and landing a little below F. W. Barts' bridge walked across the fields to Peat's nursery. Just as I was leaving the canoe a Bittern pumped twice in the meadows east of the F. W. Barts. When I returned on horse later he was driving stakes busily and persistently farther down the river at the western end of Great Meadows. This is the earliest date for the arrival of the Bittern that I can now recall.

Another bird new to my list was the Carolina Dove. A male was cooing at short, regular intervals somewhere in the direction of Ship's Hollow Cemetery when I started back up stream at 5 P. M.

I saw three Meadow Larks below the bridge two of them were in full song, the third probably a female. At first I took them to be birds that had just come to & settled in their meadows but two of them finally rose high in air & flew off towards & over the Buttricks' hill.

GUTHRIE, WILSON

1898.

March 28

Another gray day with feeble sunshine at times.
Forenoon calm and rather sultry. A chilly S. E. wind
in the afternoon.

To Backs Hill at 9 a. m. paddling down. The morning
was calm and mild and the birds were singing freely
and in unusual numbers. Besides the regular March
species I heard a Grass Finch in full song on
Ripley's Hill. Three White-bellied Swallows were flying
about among and alighting on the flocks just above
the Hotel.

Spent most of the day in the woods going after
water as the Mason field. Saw but few birds excepting
near the cabin where four Fox Sparrows, four Song
Sparrows, two & many Woodpeckers and a pair
of Chickadees visited the feed that we kept out
for them. A flock of fairly large Red-wings flew
over the hill in the afternoon. I saw one every
day in the time. These flocks are exceedingly scarce
in this neighborhood. I believe that only the winter
residents of this species are here now.

Sailed home late in the afternoon starting four
Mall Ducks from the Great Meadows just above Hunt's
Pool & having a full chorus of Red-wings & Song
Sparrows with Meadow Larks & Robins as I passed
the town. I see four or five Muskrat signs every
evening but none below Hunt's Pond.

1898.

March 29

Early morning calm & sunny; remainder of day cloudy with light S. W. wind and rain in the late afternoon lasting through the night.

To Ball's Hill at 9 A. M. paddling down. Heard a Savanna Sparrow singing rather feebly on the edge of Great Meadow and saw an immature Swamp Sparrow in some bushes on the river bank just above Hunt's Ponds both birds being the first that I have noted.

Twelve White-bellied Swallows were flying together over the meadows near the Hill. The numbers of Red-wings and Song Sparrows have remained about the same for the past four days. Robins are numerous everywhere but hardly in full song as yet. I heard one this evening singing divinely, however, in the rain at the Hedges.

Spent the day in the woods near Ball's Hill seeing nothing of especial interest.

March 30. A very early start in the morning. In the afternoon I saw a very large Milk Snake swim across a pool and disengage among the roots of the fallen maple on Mrs. Bassett's meadow.

The river has fallen rapidly the past week and much of the Great Meadow is now exposed so that I can no longer cross it with a canoe. The grass gets greener every day. Hylas, Wood Peeps & Hairy Woodpeckers are singing everywhere but not in great numbers as yet.

1898.

March 30

Early morning cloudy, afternoon clear with strong E. wind.

I bade good bye to the Hugeses this morning bound to
and with the canoe packed full of my effects Ball's Hill
paddled down to Ball's Hill where I am to
spend the remainder of my time this spring.
A cold N. wind was blowing and the birds
were mostly silent but I heard no less than
four different Phalaropes singing. Bluebirds have
apparently nearly ceased singing in the day time
but I see them frequently.

The Red-shouldered Hawks have been absolutely
silent yesterday and to-day but I saw the
female on Ball's Hill yesterday afternoon and
the male at Holden's Hill this morning. The
male looks like an immature bird but the
female is in the highest possible plumage.

There were three Fox Gulls at the cabin
yesterday and the same number to-day. On
both days I heard one of them singing in
low tones at about noon.

The Downy Woodpeckers and Chickadees still
come to our nest boxes but less frequently
than they did a week ago.

Wood Frogs were croaking freely all day &
a fair number of Hylos jumping this morning.

1898.

March 31

Heavy rain during the night changing to damp snow about daybreak. The storm continuing through the forenoon with a strong, chilly north wind.

By noon the snow covered the ground to a depth of two or three inches over the fields and in the woods but along the river banks and on the slope in front of the cabin it melted as fast as it fell. The broad space of bare, brown earth in front of our door, covered with hemp and grass seed, attracted an unusual variety of birds which kept increasing in numbers as the day wore on until by noon I had noted the following.

Robin - Two constantly present; a flock of twelve paid a brief visit

Song Sparrow - Five or six

Goldfinch - Four, one of the males singing freely.

Tree Toad - Six (these are the first that have visited the seed bed)

Swamp Sparrow - One

Junco - Three at first others later ^{admitted} until fifteen were seen.

Purple Finch - One in full song.

Phoebe - One flying down to the ground like a bluebird

Chickadee - A pair at the meat house

Downy Woodpecker - " " " " " "

Rough-legged Hawk - A dark-colored bird in the big oak.

Geese - Flock of five gray birds flying close past.

Crow - Several flying about, cawing.

At 11 a. m. I walked up through Samson's field & back around the Hill. Started a Partridge & heard a Chickadee singing merrily in the storm.

1898.

March 31

(No. 2)

The snow ceased falling about 1 P.M. and by 4 P.M. the sky was clear and the North wind had ~~thoroughly~~ and become colder. Yet almost with the first gleams of sunshine the snow disappeared like magic and by sunset there was scarce a trace of it left.

Spent the afternoon digging some young trees and stumps to take to Cambridge. Saw few birds excepting close about the cabin where the juncos, were in number at dinner time, had increased to fifteen or twenty. The Fox and Tree Sparrows sang superbly at times, their wild, clear notes intermingling with each other and with the simple trills of the juncos. I have noticed before this that all these species sing better and very much more freely during or just after a snow storm than in any other kind of weather. The Fox Sparrows sang almost incessantly during the hardest part of the storm to-day. The Robins, on the other hand, were absolutely silenced by it and I did not hear one this evening after the sky had cleared. The Song Sparrows sang a very little throughout the storm.

The Rough-legged Hawk mentioned above was perched in the large red oak at the east end of Ball's Hill. Three or four crows were clustered about him cawing excitedly. The crows flew before I got near the tree but the Hawk remained until I was within thirty yards of him. He was a large bird very dark but not black.

1898.

April 1

Clear and cold with strong N.W. wind, the ground was frozen at sunrise and shallow ponds were skimmed over.

All daybreak I heard Black Ducks grating loudly apparently very near the cabin but perhaps flying. Early in the forenoon I stalked two from Holden's Meadow (flooded).

As we were at breakfast the Sparrows were similarly engaged on the grass sward in front of our door. There was a fine flock of them this morning comprising no less than fifteen juncos, five or six Song Sparrows, three Fox Sparrows and two Fox Sparrows. The juncos were twittering and singing uttering a great variety of low warbling and chuckling sounds interpolated between an upstroke of the trill the whole reminding me forcibly of the song of a singing mouse. Why is it that this song, so infinitely superior to the summer trill, is heard only in cold weather?

The Fox Sparrows were silent this morning and I heard only one Fox Sparrow sing.

As we were watching the animated and interesting flock of Sparrows & juncos from our door they suddenly scattered in every direction and at the same instant a skinner came dashing through the bushes and alighted upon a branch of an oak not more than eight feet from where we stood. He sat for a moment balancing himself and jutting its tail looking keenly about. Most of the Sparrows had disappeared at the first alarm but three or four juncos had merely flown up into the bushes where they remained apparently not realising the dangerous character of the skinner.

A skinner
disperses a
flock of

1888.

April
(No 2)

The latter soon made a swoop at one of them and pursued and pursued until it disappeared among the trees. Half a hour later all our Sparrows and Juncos were back at the feed as to the H. I. I. was as he failed to see it's prey.

I spent the forenoon in the field and in the afternoon took a long walk in the woods. The only thing of any interest except a ♀ Cooper's Hawk flying northward past Davis's Hill and I think might be seen.

The Phoebe was above the cabin all day and I heard him singing a little before noon. A Robin sang freely at evening. We have not either seen or heard a Red wing the past two days. I suppose they have all left us since and congregated in the fields in large flocks as is their custom during cold, frosty weather at this season.

We saw a few Wood Peeps in the woods in one of my fields & a few Hylas were seen before then last two days.

Robert L. Hays

1898

April 2

Early morning clear and cold, the ground frozen hard on the surface. Clouds gathered early in the forenoon and the afternoon was gray and chilly with N. E. wind and snow at nightfall.

Three Fox Sparrows, sixteen juncos, several Tree Sparrows and five or six Song Sparrows were at the seed bed when I came out this morning. At day break I heard one of the Fox Sparrows sing a few times.

Spent the forenoon in the woods doing nothing new. Birds sang very little and the woods & thresholds appeared silent and deserted.

Gibbs saw four Black Ducks at about 8 a.m. flying over the Great Meadows.

Mr. Benjamin Watson arrived by the 5:30 P.M. train to spend Sunday with me. When I went to the counting to where him down was falling fast already whitening the ground and clinging to the bushes. The Sparrows and juncos came to the seed for their evening meal treating the usual animated & interesting scene as they twittered and picked over their food.

1898.
April 3

Clear and cold with strong N.W. wind.

The sun rose over a wintry landscape. This morning for more than two inches of snow had fallen during the night loading down the branches of the trees and bushes and covering the entire face of the country with an unbroken mantle of dazzling white. Despite the strong April sun the ground did not appear during the day excepting on southern exposures.

Holmes and I were out the entire forenoon tramping through the snow over my entire extent of woodland examining minutely trees and shrubs but seeing very few birds. We started only one Partridge, a large cock bird in the Holliston pines. On the north side of Holden's Hill in dense oak & chestnut woods we came upon a female Bluebird flitting from branch to branch like a House Finch. Saw one flock of Turkey Robins and a Red Headed Hawk. In the afternoon Gilbert saw a flock of eight Black Ducks flying over Adams's house & as I was standing in front of the cabin two passed on their way up river.

The Sparrows and Juncos were at the feed bed early this morning in the same regular numbers as during the past three days. But while we were absent in the forenoon something killed and placed a Junco directly in front of the cabin door. The remaining birds did not return during the afternoon although we saw them along the river path.

1898

April 4

Morning clear with warm sunshine which rapidly melted the remaining snow. Afternoon cloudy. A strong easterly W. wind all day.

Watson left me last evening. I spent to-day near the cabin preparing some birds for wild fowling. It was a windy, birdless day & I saw nothing of much interest excepting a flock of eight Black Ducks twice, in the early morning and again late in the afternoon, both times flying past Ball's Hill.

In the afternoon I also saw a small Hawk which I took to be a Sharp-shin. It came skimming over the crest of Ball's Hill and then, inclining sharply downwards, swooped through the oaks and directly past the cabin door. Probably this was the bird that killed the juncos yesterday. This hawk ^{has} evidently frightened the flock of Sparrows badly for only a few of them visited the bird's hole during the day although Gilbert saw eight juncos, three or four Song Sparrows and one Fox Sparrow at the hole early in the evening.

At evening a Bittern was pumping steadily at the usual place in the middle zone of the Great Meadows. This is the first time I have heard a Bittern since March 27th. I am inclined to think that the bird based on that date passed on northward ^{that night} & that the one called this morning is a new comer.

1898.
April 5

A dismal day with piercing N. E. wind and thickly falling snow which loaded down the trees and bushes and covered the leaf or grass-strewn surfaces to a depth of several inches but wherever the unfrozen ground was bare melted as fast as it fell.

There was a fine flock of Sparrows assembled in front of the cabin this morning and most of them spent the entire day there eating, apparently, without cessation. This, I think, is their usual habit when, during a snow-storm, they are lucky enough to find an abundance of food. During the fine weather of the past week they have visited the feed but only their daily - at ^{morning} morning, noon, and a little before sunset, then ^{being} always an interval of two or three hours in the forenoon and one of equal length in the afternoon when the birds were wholly neglected.

A pair of Robins, the accident pair of Doves, and two Chickadees also spent most of the day in front of the cabin and, a forenoon-looking Phoebe appeared there in the afternoon and watched with apparent envy the Sparrows engaged in a feast in which he, poor fellow, could take no part. The Robins did not, of course, touch the feed but they were able to chase themselves with occasional earthworms which they pulled from the wet, thawing ground along the path.

1898.
April 5-
(No 2)

The Fox Sparrows, as is their wont during a snow-storm at this season, sang all day long at short intervals, sometimes singly but often two or three in quick succession, one taking up the theme directly his predecessor ceased or even breaking in on him at the close of his song. It was indeed a glorious concert when several birds were thus engaged, their rich, wild notes rising and falling all around the log cabin in which I sat writing. The songs of the different individuals varied greatly in form as well as in duration some lasting twice as long as others but each bird apparently always sang in precisely the same way on different occasions.

The seed became, at times, covered with snow but the Fox Sparrows quickly uncovered it by "scratching". Watching this operation carefully, with the Sparrows only eight or ten feet from my window, I satisfied myself fully as to how it is done. The bird first makes a forward hop of from one to three inches and the instant it strikes the ground jumps backward to the starting point carrying with it all the snow, leaves or other light before coming that its large feet have beneath them, then flinging this debris six or eight inches to the rear, and at each hop exposing a small space of bare earth within convenient reach and directly in front of where it was at first standing. The forward action is so very quick

1898

April 5
(no 3)

that it is apt to escape the eye of, or at least to be misinterpreted by, the casual observer and the impression is easily received that the bird has merely scratched the leaves etc. behind it after the manner of a hen. But sometimes it does actually kick backwards without first hopping forward. Its wings are kept tightly closed during the performance. The feet are held nearly parallel but often, I think, one is a little in advance of the other.

The Song and Fox Sparrows, as well as the Juncos, "scratched" in precisely the same manner as the Fox Sparrows but rather less vigorously and much less frequently. The Juncos sang a good deal, giving the spring melody song chiefly, but the Fox Sparrows were surely silent and I heard the Song Sparrows only a few times in the early morning.

The combined flock of Sparrows, Juncos & Robins was subject to frequent nervous panics caused by the fall of a lump of snow, the distant report of a gun, some noise within the cabin or by some sight or sound either imaginary or inappreciable by our duller senses. With a chorus of screeps & whistles and a loud rustle of wings the timid little birds would scatter & dart off into the bushes soon returning ^{again} one after

1898.

April 5
(no 4)

Later in the afternoon I started out for a walk. It was still snowing hard and the N. E. wind was piercingly chilly but the beauty of the woods made me oblivious to everything else. Along the river path the snow foliage was almost as dense as the leaf foliage of midsummer and I could scarcely see the water through the screen of crimson-clothed trees and bushes. The tapers with their drooping branches and many angled twigs were especially interesting and effective.

But by far the finest effects were furnished by some of the pines on Benson's ridge. I spent fully an hour there wandering about among the trees drinking in the extraordinary beauty of the scene. These woods were so changed & glorified by the snow that even the paths that I have been lately making seemed unfamiliar and soon then even I actually lost my way. Most of the trees were simply loaded with snow masses but on some of the smaller white pines the snow had collected in rounded but floppy balls at the ends of the twigs around the bases of the tufts of needles the ends of which were left exposed producing a beautiful effect.

During this walk I saw a Phoebe at Benson's, two or three Robins among the pines, and a Rabbit on the edge of the Swamp.

Night closed in dark & threatening with the snow snow coming faster than ever.

1898.

April 6

A perfect morning, the sky without a cloud, the sun shining with dazzling brilliancy on the fresh fallen snow. By noon the trees had freed themselves from the heavy masses of snow which had loaded down their tops & branches and by night the ground was bare again excepting on western slopes & in dense woods.

When I came down the ladder a little after sunrise the Sparrows were assembled in front of the cabin but their feed was buried under four inches of damp snow. I swept off the feed and put out a fresh supply which the hungry birds attacked at once but a few minutes later a Red-winged Blackbird plumped down in the middle of the feed and scattering the Sparrows right and left began eating greedily. He was quickly joined by others of his kind until no less than ten of the beautiful birds were clustered together devouring the feed. The Sparrows meanwhile were scattered about in the neighboring bushes looking on with evident disgust. After a few minutes three of the Fox Sparrows (there were only five about to-day) plucked up courage and resumed their breakfast keeping, however, as far as possible from the Red-wings. The other five did not return to the feed until after the Red-wings had left. These are the first Blackbirds that I have ever had the pleasure of feeding here. There were fifteen juncos, three Fox Sparrows, four or five Song Sparrows and one Swamp Sparrow in front of the cabin during the day.

1898.
April 6
1892/

Soon after breakfast I started out with my camera following the edge of the meadows to Davis's Hill and returning by way of Prescott's point and Benson's ridge. The woods were exceedingly beautiful although the rays of the sun, aided by a strong westerly - west wind, quickly chased the suns from the view exposed thus. Near the river the ground was bare in many places and the Sparrows, Junco, & Song Sparrows literally swarmed in the thickets and along the sides of the hills. Indeed the suns would the ground the entire forenoon & I saw almost no birds. I found a pair of Bluebirds in the oaks on Davis's Hill but saw no Phoebe anywhere. I am afraid that they & the Swallows have had a hard time of it of late.

As I was returning a beautiful admet & much hawk crossed Benson's field fighting his way against the strong wind.

At noon a Squall 7' by showed several times at the edge of the water near the cabin.

Spent the afternoon transplanting young pines.







1898.

April 7

Clear with strong N. wind and warm sun.

Spent the forenoon in the woods. Most of the remaining snow disappeared before noon. Saw the usual numbers of common birds. The Phalaropes have passed through the bad weather for I heard one singing near Burns' and another in front of the cabin.

Then Fox Sparrows and fifteen juncos were feeding on seed ball in the early morning.

Will Bantler came down just after dinner reports seeing a Pine Warbler at Concord this morning.

At 4 P. M. I went to Cambridge where I spent the night. Only one Robin singing on the old place at evening.

Clear with cool N. Wind.

Spent the day at Cambridge returning to Ball's Hill by the late afternoon train. While Gilbert was getting supper I took a short walk seeing three Black Ducks which alighted in Holden's meadow & were about one hour busied for ten or fifteen minutes.

I also saw several flocks of Robins flying very high towards the N. and, I think, migrating.

1898.

April 9

Clear the early morning cool, the middle of the day unaccountably warm (ther. about 65°), altogether the most springlike day thus far.

Spent the forenoon in the woods, the afternoon near the cabin. Pine Warblers arrived here this morning when I heard two males singing, one on Ball's Hill, the other on Davis's Hill.

For the first time this Spring we have had one day a full chorus of Fry, Hylas, Leopards Frogs & Wood Frogs. The Hylas are still in full cry as I write this (9 P.M.). The Wood Frogs began in the little pond directly behind Ball's Hill this morning & they were still croaking, although in reduced numbers, in some of the creek's places.

I see Red-shouldered Hawks very few days but the pair which I thought would nest on Holden's Hill departed ten days or more ago & the birds here now are about & have no fixed haunts.

All the juncos apparently left this locality night before last but there were two Fox Sparrows near the cabin both yesterday & to-day.

A Blue Jay was skimming over Ball's Hill this morning the first I have actually noted on this hill although I saw one or two in March on Dallas's Hill.

1898.

April 10

Early morning clear; remainder of day cloudy with occasional light showers; a remarkably soft, warm day with but little wind.

In the early forenoon I paddled up river nearly to Flinders bridge my chief object being to get a lot of willow catkins. The morning was dead calm and very mild yet the birds were strangely silent. I doubt if I heard in all river there four or five Red-wings or Song Sparrows. The Phalaropes were the only birds that seemed to be singing on all day. I heard their notes one of which was accompanied by his mate. There was a fight at Ball's Mill which entered the cabin through the open door just before breakfast and attempted to alight on a rod directly over the fireplace. Gilbert & Pat were in the room at the time.

A Bittern pumped all the forenoon in the usual place on Great Meadows.

I saw the first ♀ Red-wing this morning in better bushes along the river, a solitary bird.

Pat started two birds on Great Meadows which he thinks were Song Sparrows. The or timber Phalarope was fired there yesterday afternoon.

A ♂ Red-shouldered Hawk flew into the woods on Holden's Mill carrying a frog in his talons. A few minutes later he began screaming. Is it possible that there is a nest there?

The Hesper & Esop's Frogs were very noisy through the day & went into the night. Almost no birds singing at evening. Virginia Rail has just begun calling alto in the bushes beyond my boat landing (S. P. M.)

Va. Rail
arises

1898.

April 11

Clear and calm most of the day. Very warm for the season.

For the first time this Spring I slept last night with the upper half of the cabin door wide open. Hylas, Hood Frogs and Boreal Frog were in full cry when I went to sleep. I awoke this morning at day break to hear Robins, Red-wings, Song Sparrows and a Grass Finch singing and a Bittern purring. Later a Phoebe and then a more few Sparrows joined in but altogether the bird chorus was weak for so calm and warm a morning.

A little before sunrise a Red Squirrel appeared in the oak and was soon hard at work in an provision basket where he tore the wrapping off a chop and ate some of the fat. His dance got rather frantic, bearing, as he worked busily, very other movements sitting erect & looking keenly around as if fearing detection were very interesting. Presently he began working a peculiar low growling sound keeping it up for many minutes in succession.

I soon discovered that it was caused by the approach of an enormous Gray Squirrel who came across a long branch from another oak and jumped into the tree where the basket hung. The Gray descended very slowly to within a yard of the basket and then stopping lay extended for a long time on a broad branch paying us offensive attention to the continued remonstrances of the Red Squirrel who, all

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April 11

(Wed)

The chick held his ground although he ceased eating. Finally the Gray went off & the Red continued his breakfast.

I spent the day transplanting trees. Heard two Pine Warblers. All the Juncos & Fox Sparrows gone. I miss them badly & nothing has taken their place about the cabin. There are only two or three Song Sparrows there now.

Taking a walk at evening along the river bank I heard a Snipe drumming steadily for half an hour or more. The Bittern was also pumping at those intervals.

Vegetation has advanced rapidly the past two days. The willows are thickly hung with catkins as have been the poplars since the 7th. The grass is getting very green.

Cloudy Day

1898.

April 12

Cloudy with occasional gleams of blue. Breeze from N. E.

Spent the entire day on or near Ball's Hill transplanting trees. Birds either very scarce or very silent. The early migrants have evidently about all gone and none of the later ones arrived. Our cabin Phoebe was about all day and sang freely for the first time.

Late in the afternoon a flock of five Gossauers passed high over Ball's Hill and then swooped downward into Great Meadows their wings making a loud rushing sound. Two of the flock were old drakes.

At evening two Snipe drummed for nearly half-an-hour over the marshes opposite the cabin and a Swamp Sparrow sang over in full, round tones in the bottom bushes along the river.

1898.

April 13

Early morning cloudy; remainder of day brilliantly clear with very strong (but not chill) E. wind.

Spent the entire day transplanting trees, covering a good deal of ground going to 8 ft from floor to floor. Saw few birds seen or heard; indeed the country appeared to be lifeless & desolate & even in the early morning I heard almost no singing. The three Squirrels came to the cabin as usual, the Red at day break, the pair of Grays half an hour later. I also saw a chipmunk (the first this spring) near the E. end of Ball's Hill.

In the afternoon a flock of 14 Cedar Birds passed over Davis's Hill flying due North and perhaps migrating.

At evening the Britton was humming and a bright drizzling. I also heard a singular succession of croaking notes (or a rolling noise) many times repeated & coming from the direction of the Britton bushes opposite Ball's Hill. This call was unlike anything that I have ever heard before. It could hardly have been made by a frog although it faintly resembled the croaking of the European frog, but was much louder & more emphatic. I am quite sure that it was uttered by some water bird.

1898.

April 14

Cloudy with S. E. wind and fine rain in the afternoon changing to heavy rain during the night.

Another day spent transplanting trees, working between Davis's and Ball's Hill. Small birds continue very scarce with no new arrivals. A flock of 22 White-bellied Swallows flying past the cabin in the afternoon. At evening a pair of Black Ducks passed over the top of Ball's Hill and a number of Snipe (at least three & I think more) ^{were} "darning" over the flooded meadows for twenty minutes or more.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank M. Chapman arrived at 7.15 P.M. and we sat up late talking.

" 15

A real old-fashioned north-easter lasting all day and with us signs of ceasing as I am writing this (at 8 P.M.). Heavy rain driving before a gusty, violent & bitterly chilly wind silencing the birds and blighting out the distant landscape.

Mr. Chapman spent the forenoon in the cabin and departed at 2 P.M. After they had gone I took a long walk in the woods - to Bird Island and beyond. Saw almost no birds but had a feast of beauty in the mosses and lichens on stones & old stumps. Such exquisite greens, greys, and gray greens!

Six Herring Gulls & a flock of eight Black Ducks passed the cabin in the early forenoon. Two Chickadees, a Pine Warbler, a Robin, two Downys, and two Song Sparrows the only small birds seen near the cabin.

1898.
April 16

Morning cloudy with occasional light showers. Clearing in the afternoon with W. wind. At sunset the sky was cloudless and the light remarkably clear & strong.

A great bird day, everything in full song from early until late. Just after breakfast I heard a Partridge drumming in the old place on the stone wall at the E. end of Balls' Hill. Gilbert heard another later near Concord.

A little before noon a ♀ Green-winged Teal passed the cabin flying down river. She passed within forty yards of me & I made a certain identification. A few minutes later as we were at dinner we heard the bounding of Geese & looking out saw a flock of twenty of the noble birds flying north. They passed over the E. end of Balls' Hill at a height of less than 100 yards.

A solitary male Yellow-rump appeared near the cabin in the forenoon & spent the remainder of the day singing at intervals.

Our cabin Phoebe appeared this morning with a mate and sang freely through the day.

The evening was a really beautiful one, dead calm with a strong amber light on the opposite shores of the river. Two Robins were pumping on the windows sometimes together but usually one beginning just after the other had ceased. A Lark also drummed a few times.

A Grass Finch was singing all day long in the old field near the Pine plantation.

Cambridge & Concord, Mass.

1898.

April 23

Cloudy with fine rain.

On the afternoon of the 17th I paddled up to Concord and having the new canoe safely stored in the barn at the Hayes place returned to Cambridge where I spent the whole of the succeeding week going back to Ball's Hill each this afternoon.

On the old place at Cambridge from four to six or eight Robins, a Hermit Thrush, a Chipping, a Purple Finch and a Flicker were seen or heard every day. Mewer Grackles were seen almost daily, also, and Crows frequently. A White-throated Sparrow in perfect (nearly unusually so) plumage spent the 23rd in the garden and a Blue Jay was screaming in our lindens on the morning of that day. I also heard a Goldfinch flying over. The Hermit Thrush sang softly the previous

While driving to the Station at Arlington this afternoon I saw two Black Ducks fly out of the water swamp. Lockhart tells me that a pair are nesting there and another pair near Port Pond.

When I reached the cabin this evening a soft rain was falling. Two White-throated Sparrows were feeding in front of the door, a Kingfisher was rattling in the vine maples, Swamp Sparrows sang in the bottom bushes, Robins in the oaks.

The chorus of Nighthawk voices was deeply ear-piercing. Black Warts in full bloom. Sleets a Partridge near the east end of the grill & the same bird a second time within 30 ft. of the cabin!

1898.

April 24

A dark, gloomy day with N.E. wind and heavy rain. The rain is all over the meadows again and is still rapidly rising.

Spent the forenoon setting out plants near the cabin. Two White-throated Sparrows, both of drab - plumage, a few Robins, a pair of Pine Siskins, a flock of five or six Yellow-rumps, a Kingfisher, and about thirty Swallows, of which four or five were Barn Swallows, were in sight on leaving most of the time.

In the afternoon walked to Pussers' farm by way of Davis's Hill & back by the railroad tracks. Saw few birds. Heard one Robin singing and started two House Wrens. A Great Tit was singing in the Mason field. Heard Partridges drumming in three places - at the S. end of Davis's Hill, at the N.E. end of Davis's Swamp, and at the South end of the Mason field. All these birds drummed at short regular intervals. It is evident that the Partridge drums much more frequently in dark weather when rain or snow is falling than at other times.

The moss & lichens were surpassingly beautiful. Vegetation advances slowly. I saw blood root and Ceanothus in flower. The red maples are now at their prime & the big swamps flushed with their salmon-pink blossoms. Shad bush not yet out.

1898.

April 25

Morn'g cloudy with light showers of fine rain.
 Clearing in the afternoon with a brilliantly clear sunset.
 A strong, cold N. E. wind all day.

Spent the forenoon in the woods near Davis's Hill.
 Small birds either very scarce or very silent. Heard a
 Cooper's Hawk barking in the old nesting place among
 the dense pines at the glacial hollows but did
 not see the bird.

At about noon an Osprey passed Davis's Hill flying
 down river and a few minutes later three Great Blue
 Herons followed him.

In the afternoon sailed across Great Meadows and
 passing through the carry by the big maple paddled
 the remainder of the way to the Rosticks' where
 I landed to get down things from the boat house
 & then turned back stopping at several places
 on my return to dig plants & trees. Saw a
 Peregrine Hawk flying high over Ball's Hill toward
 the north. The Bittern was pumping steadily in
 the usual place. Only a very few birds singing along
 the river. The Red-wings appear to have left the
 meadows altogether owing, no doubt, to the recent rise
 of water which is now nearly as high as it was
 the middle of March. A few Tree Sparrows still sing.
 I took six together on the W. Redford shore & heard
 one of them sing freely. The two dingy colored
 White-throats which spent the 23rd & 24th in front
 of the cabin were gone this morning & a pair about
 had taken their place. A pair of Phoebe at the cabin
 all day examining it with evident thoughts of building there.

1898.

April 26

Forenoon cloudy with light showers; afternoon clear.
A strong and very cold N.E. wind blowing all day.

Spent most of the day working near the cabin.
The weather through the forenoon was exceedingly disagreeable and the birds were remarkably silent.
A few Yellow warblers, a Pine Warbler, a Chipping, two or three Robins and two White-throated Sparrows being about under the shelter of the hill near the cabin.
Over the line thirty or forty Swallows were drifting to and fro skimming close to the water.

At about 6 P.M. I came upon a Meadow Mouse that was feeding by the side of the river path near the cabin. It was some six feet away when I saw it and stopped to watch it. It was eating the fresh green blades of one of the common cultivated grasses. These blades were then a few inches in length. It nipped them off near the ground and beginning at the bases worked them into its mouth quite evenly and rapidly chewing them and drawing them in wholly by the use of its teeth. It was a remarkably neat, pretty animal with dense, glossy fur. Its shape & motions reminded me strongly of those of a Muskrat. After I had watched it for fully ten minutes it took alarm at something and darted into a burrow a few feet off.

Walked to the Blakely woods on evening. The flooded swamps ringing with Hylas voices. Three or four Swamp Sparrows singing. A single Chipping and two Great Horned Owls hooting.

1898.

April 27

Cold last night with heavy white frost & slightly frozen ground early this morning. Forenoon brilliantly clear. Afternoon cloudy. A violent & most piercing S. wind blowing all day.

Spent the forenoon in the woods and fields near Ball's Hill. In the afternoon sailed to Concord (using an umbrella) and then paddled up the Assabet to Angus Mill in search of some slabs for the new cabin. The Assabet is unchanged save for the recent cutting of the fissa & remarkably tall gray birches in the swamp above the hummocks.

Started back at 5.45 and reached the cabin just an hour later, paddling all the way. The water is now almost at maximum spring tides and the current is very strong. The wind blowing against it raised a really ugly sea in places. Very few birds singing. My hands were positively numb with the cold 'ere I reached the cabin.

Despite the cold weather I noted two arrivals to-day, a Parula Warbler that sang for half-an-hour above the cabin this forenoon and a Spotted Sandpiper at Dallen's Hill at evening.

Just after leaving Angus's Brook on my return I saw a curious looking object crossing the Assabet about 30 yds. ahead. It proved to be a pair of Musk-rats engaged in copulation. There were two periods of sexual contact each lasting about half-a-minute. During their continuance the female kept on swimming steadily across the swift

Musk-ratsin AssabetMarch

Second Stage.

1898.

April 27

(No 2)

current bearing the male on her back. The second contact ceased just as they reached some bushes when the pair separated, the female going ashore & the male diving. I have never before actually seen birds so perform the sexual act although I have often watched males in pursuit of females. They usually keep up their peculiar screaming cry while thus engaged but both of these animals were silent. What could be more characteristic of such ultra-aggressive creatures than this sexual union in mid-stream! The offspring resulting from it should be indeed bold swimmers and adroit divers conceived, as the case, in the midst of that rushing flood.

Early this morning an interesting little flock of Wootches was collected in the oaks on the Hubbard side of Ball's River. There were six or seven Yellow-rumps, a Yellow Palm Warbler and a Pine Warbler, all singing furly. A pair of Kingfishers were settling on the river and a Blue Jay was screaming near at hand. Presently I heard the barking note of a Cooper's Hawk in a thicket of young pines into which the Jay had just flown. I am morally certain that the Jay uttered this cry but I failed to get another sight at him when I entered the pines. Probably the barking which I heard yesterday at the Glacier House was also made by a Jay. Why does the Jay imitate all our Hawks and our other birds?

Blue Jay
imitates a
Cooper's
Hawk.

1898.

April 28

A North-easter, one of the heaviest I have ever known at Concord, the wind blowing all day with great violence raising a heavy sea in front of the cabin. Steadily falling rain through the forenoon changing to hail in the late afternoon the ground white with it when the night closed in.

Spent the forenoon in or near the cabin. Late in the afternoon took a long walk in the woods. The wind was strong that it was difficult to force one's way against it across the openings and the hail beat on my face & hands like showers of pebble stones. Where were the birds? I saw two dumb-bell Robins, a pair of most unhappy-looking Phalaropes & a Song Sparrow or two. But no Waxwings. Gilbert saw a Whistler flying over the River.

" 29

Cloudy all day with frequent showers of fine rain. The wind still in the north-east but blowing with abated force & falling to dead calm at evening. The temperature higher than yesterday & rising as the day wore on.

Spent the day on or near Ball's Hill working in the woods. Saw a Hermit Thrush and at evening a Great Blue Heron and a Night Heron, the latter flying over Ball's Hill towards the west.

Purkin arrived by the 6:30 train to spend to-morrow and Sunday.

1898.

April 30

Clear with violent N.W. wind; rather cool in the early morning but warm at noon.

Pearie and I took a long walk in the forenoon covering most of my land to the north of Ball's Hill and rambling through Mrs. Barrett's woods as well. A good flight of Robbers must have arrived last night for in the oak woods on the Westward side of Davis's Hill we found a dozen or more Yellow Wings, half as many Yellow Palm Warblers, a Black & White Creeper and a Ruby-crowned Knight, the last two being the first that I have noted this spring. There was a general arrival of Creepers, apparently, for we heard others in different places later, at least four birds in all.

In Benson's field we came upon a flock of fifteen Goldfinches feeding among some weeds. Some of the males were in full summer plumage & all showed more or less bright yellow. They sang vigorously when the flock flew up & alighted in these trees.

Walking at evening in the Blakemore woods we started two Partridge and heard a night Heron grunting. We also walked on Osprey creek over Barrett's meadows looking for fish, but vainly. A Bittern also seen on the edge of this meadow.

1898.

May 1

A beautiful day much warmer than yesterday and with less strong wind although from the same direction (N.W.).

Red-wings, Song Sparrows, Robins and a Pine Warbler singing near the cabin at sunrise. Just after breakfast a Solitary Vireo in full song near the crest of Ball's Hill and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet chattering and singing among the dense pines just behind this hill. I was struck by the close resemblance between the chatter and those which the Solitary Vireo utters when its nest is approached. Later in the day we heard another Kinglet in full song in Redford Swamp.

At 8.30 a.m. we started down river in the old Bellefonte Boat paddling, foraging, and being by times, hugging the shores of the flooded meadow closely for the water is now as high as it was the middle of last March. We saw but few birds until we reached Lower's big woods where on landing we found a mixed flock of Yellow Wings & Yellow Palm Warblers flitting about among the oaks and pines darting one after flying insects & singing freely, the day, chattering notes of the Yellow Wingers blending with the much sweeter one of the Yellow Wingers. The song of the latter species possesses the same dreamy quality as that of D. dominica which, indeed, it strikingly resembles.

1898.

May 1
(Sat)

in other respects although it is shorter and less strong and penetrating. Despite the fact that the Yellow Warbler does not breed here it is the earliest bird to reach us whose plumage coloring suggests summer as the Black & White Creeper is the first whose song conveys the same suggestion. Of the Cuckoos, by the way, we saw a broad bill or fin during the forenoon.

Following the old wood path we presently reached the top of the hill where a most interesting experience awaited us. As we began rambling about through the fine old woods I noticed, every few steps, large pellets of fur & bones scattered about under the trees. I had just recalled to Purdie that a Great Horned Owl must have been living in the neighborhood and that it was probably the same bird which I have heard several times this spring when Ball's Hill when, raising my eyes, I saw what I took at first to be a dead sheep lying at the foot of a large pine about thirty yards off. But on approaching nearer we discovered that the whitish-looking object, very conspicuous on the sunset-brown surface of the ground, was two young Great Horned Owls huddled close together. They were fully three-quarters grown and already well-feathered although mottled down still adhered to the tips of the feathers to give them a generally whitish appearance. One of them opened its pale yellow eyes wide and stared

1898.

May 1
(no 3)

at us with great curiosity but the other kept its eyes tightly closed. We did not go near enough to disturb them seriously and in saw nothing of either of their parents. They had probably fallen from a nest about as large as a Crow's nest which we could see in a fork of the pine directly over their heads & about forty feet above the ground. By them lay the skin of a Rabbit (*L. sylvaticus*), apparently nearly entire & freshly torn off. The pine stands on level ground on the top of a ridge bordering the river meadows. The woods are at present about half covered in spruce & are almost wholly composed of large, old white pines.

At a sand bank on the edge of these woods we found a pair of Phalaropes. The ♀ was collecting bird clung material which she got on the ground and tried to place on a slender, vibrating root under the bank, - a futile task for ten well thrown etc. fell to the ground almost as soon as she left them and added to a pile of similar material at the foot of the bank. This pile was as large as an average - sized Robin's nest. The bird was probably a young one that had never before attempted to build a nest.

Crossing the flooded meadows we next contacted at the big pines in Shepard Swamp where we saw a Brown Towhee, the first there known. It was silent & in downy old nest.

1898.

May 2

Clear with light S. E. wind & hazy sky at sunset,
 then and then deep air indicating a coming storm.

Pearce left me this morning and Faxon arrived
 by the 5:30 P. M. train. I spent the forenoon
 at Ball's Hill observing the men who are at work
 on the new cabin. In the afternoon I sailed down
 to the great Belfast swamp where I dug some
 Rhodora bushes and then crossed the river (still under
 sail) to Lawrence's woods where I got some *Pyrrhuloxia*
 and visited the young Great Horned Owls. They were
 in the same place but they had moved about one
 quarter around the trunk of the pine evidently, as I
 thought, because the wind had changed for yesterday,
 when it was north, they were on the south side of the tree
 and to-day, when it was S. E., on the N. W. side.
 While I was looking at them, standing about 20 yards
 away, one of the old birds began hooting in the pines
 behind me; and presently it appeared and flying from
 tree to tree moved around me in a half circle keeping
 just beyond gun range and behaving in the most
 curious manner. Alighting close to the trunk of a pine,
 at a height of 30 or 40 feet above the ground, it would
 follow the branch out nearly to the end and walking steadily
 and at times rather quickly, its body horizontal, its
 wings wide-spread and flapping slowly like those of a
 big butterfly, its head lowered considerably below the line
 of the back, its haws slightly raised and its eyes
 glaring fiercely. It hooted every half minute or so in
 long evening tones. Its mate also hooted in answer but
 soon afterwards flew off to another pair of woods

Oswald Mass.

1898.

May 2

(No 2)

The moment he showed himself in the open he was discovered by a Crow whose excited cawing brought others of his kind from every direction until within the next few minutes a dozen or more assembled and watched the Owl after their usual fashion.

I wonder why the Crows do not visit the young Owls. They must certainly be aware of their presence. The rabbit skin still lay by their side but it looked much smaller than it did yesterday & I think they had devoured part of it.

A Black-throated Green Warbler was singing on Ball's Hill this evening and I heard an or more Chipping Swifts twittering there late this afternoon. Faxon reports the arrival of the first Flycatcher & Towhee at Arlington on April 30th.

After tea this evening Faxon & I took a long walk through the fields in the direction of Concord. We heard a Nuthatch but no King. A tremendous din of Hyla voices last evening & to-night. The fairly weak ones are able to approach the edges of the ponds & mine meadows.

(Pencil) May

1898.

May 3

Cloudy with strong S. wind and showers of
fine, mist-like rain at frequent intervals.

A Thrasher was in full song at day break on
the Bedford side of the river opposite the cabin.
As soon as the latter we heard Saw and Bank
swallows. Among the swarms of the & Bank swallows
skimming low over the river. Chipping Swifts were
flying around the crest of Ball's Hill all day. We
saw five together on one tree. There were a few
others also. The Saw & Bank swallows were the only arrivals.

Starting out about 9 A.M. we walked through
the drifting, mist-enshrouded woods to domestic farms
where we found the young Bullocks speckling side by
side in the same place where I left them yesterday.
The rabbit skin had wholly disappeared. One of
the old birds, the ♀ I think, began hooting almost as
soon as we entered the woods & when we approached
the young she came circling around us taking short
flights & bobbing in much the same manner as yesterday.
Sometimes instead of walking out on a branch she
would crash wildly into the midst of a cluster of
dead twigs and either stand there or fall through
the twigs beating her wings furiously. Foxon agreed with
me that this was a way to draw us away from the
young & that it was essentially the same trick that
so many of the ground birds practice. This Owl
hooted incessantly to-day & also made several other
sounds which I shall describe later when I have had
an opportunity to study them more carefully.

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI.

1898.

May 4

Weather much like that of yesterday but with much less wind, scarcely any rain, and glysters of blue sky and a glow or two of sunshine in the afternoon.

Spent the forenoon at or near the cabin. Heard the thrush singing in the early morning and saw doves between the twisted branches. No arrivals to-day.

In the afternoon sailed down stream to Lawrence's works taking my 5x7 camera and exposing a dozen plates on the young Great Horned Owls. When I first came in sight of them they were standing up a yard or more apart and a little distance from the tree. One of them repeated opened & flutched its wings but the next moment they disclosed me when they at once tumbled to the pine and crouched close against its trunk, looking on another. As I advanced the camera to within about two yards of them they shrank back still closer to the tree & began snapping their bills but while I was taking the photographs they lay perfectly motionless. I saw no food or pellets near them but the surface of the ground around the pine was white with their chalky excrement.

Before I got near the young the old birds began hooting and the male presently started off taking the same course as on May 2nd and again attacking a mob of crows the moment he left the shelter of the woods. The female came about me in a half circle as usual but for the first time she rejected the tactics which she has hitherto adopted and

October 1908

1898.

May 4
(No 2)

Contented herself with talking about, rather flights
alighting high up in the trees and sitting erect &
motionless when perched. This change of behavior
interested me greatly. I interpret it to mean that
she has discovered that it is useless to try to
~~draw me into thinking that~~ lead me away from
her young by pretending that her wings are injured.
Certainly I must have caused her much greater
anxiety than on any previous occasion but possibly
the very fact of my near approach to the young
and the action of the camera nearly over them
convinced her that they were at my mercy &
that nothing that she could do would ^{be of any} avail. She
was much more noisy, however, than hitherto and
I was deeply interested in the variety of sounds
that she uttered. At first she hooted the usual
night strain but in hoarse & snuffled tones.
Then she changed to a hoot which, if I am
not mistaken, was identical with that of the
howling Owl that sometimes visits our camp at
Pinn Point & which I have never before suspected
could be a Parula. She used this form of hoot
during the latter half of my stay near the young.
I noted it carefully on the spot as follows: -
Hoo, hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo given very
rapidly and smoothly in very soft, low, cooing
tones. Besides the hooting she uttered a barling
wack or wangle very like the back of a dog (sometimes
doubling this cry in wack-wack) and a rather prolonged
squealing or whining outcry exceedingly similar to that
of a hen Partridge with young.
The old birds ^{of course} ~~exactly~~ ^{of course} ~~spend~~ ^{spend} the day in the densest part
of the forest from which the young have been driven.

1863

1864



1898.

May 5

Warm and sultry with light S. to S. W. wind. Forenoon sunny but with thin clouds drifting across the sky. A gentle, warm rain beginning about sunset and lasting into the night.

Spent most of the day at or near the cabin. Birds singing freely but no indications of any accession to their numbers. In the afternoon, however, while getting down wild flowers on the West Highland side of the river opposite Baco's Hill I heard a Great Flycatcher. The Thrasher was singing then all day. On the Highland bank opposite the cluster of pines I observed a pair of Christmas Wrens. They flew into the pines where the male cooed two or three times. Two Bitterns were pumping at day break and I heard one or both at short intervals during the entire day.

As I was walking up through the fields towards Baco's this evening a Hermit Thrush began singing on one of the oak-clad hills on the Blackmon lot. It sang for about five minutes in loud but somewhat broken tones. Rain was falling at the time and the twilight was far advanced.

Gulls-nests were scattered about everywhere to-day singing freely. I saw no flocks but almost every thicket seemed to harbor a single bird.

The birds are unfolding their boxes.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

May 6

Clear and cool with light N. wind.

Spent the forenoon near the cabin. No increase in number of birds, either species or individuals as compared with yesterday save that two House Wrens were heard singing, the one on the shore opposite the cabin and a fresh bird opposite Davis's Hill.

At 6.30 A. M. Gilbert called my attention to a flock of four Herring Gulls which were passing high over Hollis Hill towards the N., apparently migrating. Mr. Edmund Bonnell afterwards told me that he saw them pass over his house at Concord at about the same time.

Went to Cambridge by the noon train. Found a Yellow Warbler & a Hermit Thrush in the garden. W. Dean says that the former appeared on the 2nd & has been singing every day since.

Returned to Concord by the 5.30 P. M. train. During my absence the dead bushes along the south side of Hollis Hill had burst into full flower and many of the birds & vespers had become quite green with unfolding leaves.

At sunset a Bittern was pumping at short intervals in the bushy part of the swamp behind Hollis Hill. I thought I heard one there on the night of the 2nd.

1898.

May 7

Early morning cloudy the sky clearing before 10 a.m. the remainder of the day cloudless, and mostly calm, and very warm; altogether the pleasant and most spring-like day thus far.

A heavy flight of migrants arrived during the night. Soon after breakfast I walked around Ball's Hill seeing two ^{and an Oven bird} Orioles, two Robins and hearing a Maryland Yellow-throat in full song. At about 10 a.m. Mr. Bailett called and reported seeing a Cat. bird, four or five Nashville Warblers and a number of Yellow Warblers, at Concord. Later in the day I heard a Yellow Warbler opposite Moss Hill.

Bailett and I took a long walk in the latter part of the forenoon. He heard a second Oven bird, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets, seven or eight Black-throated Green Warblers and a number of Yellow-rumps. Besides these a few Yellow Palm Warblers. He saw a Nashville Warbler I heard a James Woodpecker.

Just after we had crossed Davis's Swamp and were entering Rescott's pines following the old road a Carolina Wren started from a dense white pine and flew slowly off pretending to be partially disabled. We suspected a nest at once & soon discovered it on a stout horizontal branch three or four feet out from the tree and about eight feet above the ground. Strange to say I have written down we heard a Wren in these woods before this spring although we could hear last year. The nest held two eggs which looked dark as if slightly incubated.

Some fifteen minutes later we found a Partridge's nest with thirteen dark buff-colored eggs. It was in Mrs. Bailett's woods, only a few rods back from the old

1898.

May 7
(No 2.)

apple orchard, within two or three yards of a dusty
washed foot path, & beautifully concealed under a matted
platform of broken-down bushes, which, although leafless,
were so dense that the eggs could not be seen from
above. Two of the eggs were placed on the tops of the others.
The bird left the nest when we were about ten yards
away and without flying made off with a peculiar
crouching gait—a sort of rapid crawling motion—crouching
very low, twining her wings, and uttering a continuous gruff
whining sound—in short behaving as a hen Partridge
invariably does when surprised with a brood of young
but as I have never before seen one behave when
leaving a nest with eggs. She was in sight for thirty
yards or more for the cover was not at all dense
being sparse, & heavily spouted growth with no openings.
The eggs did not break to be incubated. Purché & I
passed along this path on April 30th.

Under the pines on Benav's ridge Bontell picked
up a remarkably beautiful nest of the Pine Warbler
lined with feathers & the fur of a Gray Squirrel.
The materials were absolutely fresh, clean & not in
the least soiled. I think the nest must have been
a new one but this an early date.

In the afternoon I paddled down to Samson's woods
taking my camera. The young Owls were gone and
at first I neither saw nor heard either of the old
birds but one of the latter began hooting presently &
I think I must have started the other at about
the same time judging by the way the cross

1898
May 7
(no 3)

gathered and clamored in the woods by the river into which the weak Owl usually flew when disturbed. Two Red-shouldered Hawks also appeared over these woods screaming incessantly for ten or fifteen minutes their shrill voices, adding materially to the din kept up by the excited Crows. All the while three of the Owls remained near me in the tops of the pines hooting at short, regular intervals, using always the ordinary night hoot - hoo, hoo - hoo - hoo, hoo, hoo but giving it in subdued tones.

But where were the young? I ^{first} examined the ground about the foot of the pine with great care. It was strewn with large pellets of fur and bones and covered with excrement among which dry beetles were groping about after their usual stupid fashion. There was all unmistakable about but not very strong smell of Skunk mingled with the more offensive odors but I failed to find any Skunk hair or other remains. The ground was strewn in every direction with scraps of Rabbit skin and all the pellets that I dissected were composed wholly of Rabbits fur and bones. There were no feathers of Partridges or other birds. Besides the Rabbit remains (representing a dozen or more of the poor creatures I should say) I found nothing identifiable excepting a Green King which had one side of its head torn open but which was otherwise unimpaired.

My heart sank when I discovered a sort of trail of down, evidently that of the young Buss, clinging to the tips of the low blueberry bushes & leading straight away from the pine for a distance.

Cedar Point, Mass.

1898
May 7
(1894)

of several yards. But after I had followed it to its termination and was looking ahead for further clues my eyes were suddenly arrested by a yellowish patch on the end of a fallen trunk that was raised from a few feet above the ground and to my great delight I found that it was one of the young Owb. He was crawling to my feet & he lay so still as I approached that I found at first that he was dead but he proved to be all right and I spent the next half hour photographing him, exposing ten plates in all. I did not succeed in finding the other young bird and I think it probable that he has been carried off by either a dog or a fox but of course he may have been hidden somewhere in the neighborhood and the trail of down may have had no real meaning for the wind may have blown it into the tops of the bushes. The old Owl kept hooting all the time I was with the young bird but she did not once change her position or show herself.

Three Bitterns were hanging this evening, two on the Great Meadow, the third in the swamp behind Bull's Hill where I think there is likely to be a nest a little later.

Gilbert paddled up to Concord this morning bringing two Green Herons and seven Spotted Sandpeps.

1275

1898.

May 8

Cloudy with violent and very cold N. E. wind.

A thoroughly disagreeable day with few birds to be seen or heard. A Hermit and a Wilson's Thrush spent the forenoon in the bushes along the river path. At evening the Northern in the swamp behind Boll's Hill was pumping persistently. It is now evident that he intends breeding there. It is a singular place, for the entire space far from trees is not over 100 yards long by 20 to 25 yards wide and of this less than one tenth is meadow, the other nine tenths being covered with tall, densely-growing high blueberry and Andromeda bushes.

The Hayes party dined with me to-day and we had a long walk in the woods in the afternoon.

" 9

Clear with strong E. wind. A fine day but rather too cool for comfort.

Saw very few birds and of those few none were new to my long list. A little flock of Yellow-rumps spent the forenoon near the cabin and a pair of Phoebe were there, also.

At least fully 100 Chipping Swift were dashing in and out among or just over the tops of the oaks on Boll's Hill. With them were thirty or forty Barn Swallows, two or three House Swallows, a Martin, a few Cow Swallows and at least one Tree Swallow.

The Northern was pumping for an hour or more at evening in Boll's Hill swamp & another answered from near meadow. Wilson's Thrushes calling in the twilight.

1898.

May 10

A perfect day; cloudless, with fresh S.W. wind.

At sunrise a Thrasher was singing in a brick chimney in front of the cabin. He spent the day in the thickets near it & was evidently a bird that had just arrived from the south.

Immediately after breakfast I took a short walk following the foot path that leads around behind Bull's Hill and coming out in the pine nursery. The woods were thronged with birds that had evidently arrived during the night. Two Solitary Vireos were singing on the northern slope of Bull's Hill; Chestnut-sided Hawks & Maryland Yellow-throats in the swamp; a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the Blackman woods; a Pipit was scratching among the Corns by Morris's Landing. Almost every thicket held a White-throated Sparrow or a Yellow-throat or both. Twice at wide intervals I heard the mellow song of a Bobolink falling from the sky above followed by the chirp notes. At evening the song came again to my ears. On all these occasions the birds were evidently high in air migrating.

At evening I took a long walk to Davis's Hill & the Moon field. Heard at least eight different birds or Thrushes calling but not one of them sang. White-throated Sparrows were everywhere, one or two in a place.

Although a very heavy flight of migrants arrived last night & the country seemed to humming with them this morning they were widely scattered & I did not see anywhere even a small flock collected together. The species undoubted above were noted here for the first time.

Shall look in full Moon evening to-day.

1898.

May 11

Forenoon clear but hazy; afternoon cloudy with heavy showers of fine rain, clearing again at sunset. A strong warm S.W. wind all day.

The work on the new cabin, now nearing completion, required very constant supervision to-day although I was strongly tempted to leave it to its fate for, judging by what I saw about Ball's Hill there must have been a remarkably heavy and most interesting flight of birds. The animals that I was able to note were Golden-winged Woodpecker (2 seen in flocks at east end of Ball's Hill), Baltimore Oriole (two 2's singing on Ball's Hill), Cat bird (four or five, most of them singing), King bird (one), Greater Yellow-leg (heard flying over the marshes).

The Solitary Vireo & the Brown Thrasher that were singing near the cabin yesterday were gone to-day & I saw but one White-throated Sparrow. Bobolink, unlike heard several times, apparently across the river.

When the wind is south Robins in considerable numbers assemble at evening in the swamp behind Ball's Hill. There were a dozen or more of them there to-night. Besides in the swamp they were in some dense white pines but of late they have been resorting to the thickets of high bush Honeysuckle and Ceanothus. Most of them seem to be males & they sing freely before going to bed making a great noise. They roost very low down - only three or four feet above the ground.

1898.

May 12

Clear and warm with high S. wind increasing to half a gale and being dark, threatening cloud masses at evening.

This day, also, I was forced to spend at the cabin although there was a second heavy flight of birds. Taking a short walk in the early morning I found the swamp behind the bird cabin with Warblers among them a Black & Yellow and a Wilson's Black-cap both in full song and both new to my list of this season. I also heard a Solitary Vireo and numbers of common birds. Chestnut-sided Warblers & Redstarts being especially numerous & prominent.

At evening I walked again over the swamp ground. Mayflower Yellow throats & Oven-birds were singing on every side. The Baltimore was absent but I heard one of the birds on Great Meadows.

At dinner this morning I was treated to a fine concert of bird voices as I lay in bed. Besides the earlier evening species I heard a Cat-bird, an Oven-bird, a Grosbeak, a Cuckoo & a Chestnut-sided Warbler.

For the last two evenings the chorus of Frogs has been briefly dropping. Hylas, Boreal Frogs & Toads have been the chief performers with a Green Frog joining in occasionally. The Wood Frogs have been absolutely silent for two weeks or more. They usually begin the earliest & invariably cease the latest of all the Frogs.

1898.

May 13

Clear and very warm with light S.W. wind. Evening calm and beautiful.

Spent the day working about the cabin taking a short walk in the early morning and a longer one in the evening. The woods and thickets on Ball's Hill and the swamp behind it swarmed with warblers all day the greater number Chestnut-sided, Red-starts and Maryland Yellow-throats. The only arrivals that I noted were a Water Thrush, a Red-eyed Vireo and a Yellow-throated Vireo. As on the 11th and 12th the birds were scattered very evenly through the woods & I saw no flocks. A solitary Vireo was singing on Ball's Hill and a Partridge drumming on the stone wall.

Early in the forenoon a ♀ Pine Warbler visited the cabin a number of times for nest building material which she obtained by hopping about on the ground close to our door. Gilbert tried her to the tall white pines on the back of the hill but he failed to find the nest. He says that she remained singing in these pines the whole time when ever occupied singing his mate on her trips after material.

Wilson's Thrushes began singing this evening. I heard one behind Ball's Hill and another in Davis's swamp birds many others calling.

First Bull Frog croaking heard this evening & first general onslaught of mosquitoes at the same hour.

The Bottom or Great Meadows began pumping at 2.55 this morning. A few minutes later a second Spotted Owl.

1898.
May 14

Clear and warm with light N. to N. W. wind.

The singing at sunrise this morning was much less in respect to variety and volume than yesterday. Nevertheless there were quite as many warblers on & near Paul's Hill as there have been at any time during the past week. The most interesting was a Wilson's Black-cap, two Black-bills and a Worm Eater. The Solitary bino was again singing in the same place.

Starting at 8.30 a.m. I took a long walk passing over Davis's Hill, through Prescott's farms and deep into Mrs. Barrett's woods. The Dove's nest in the Prescott woods has been raided since my last visit. The nest ~~was~~ torn to pieces & most of it lying on the ground. I could find no trace of the eggs.

The Parula's nest in Mrs. Barrett's woods was all right, with its complement of 12 eggs. The hen bird was sitting. She slipped off when we were about ten yards distant and ran out of sight making, however, no further demonstration. I exposed a number of plates on the nest.

Warblers abound in all the woods I visited this morning. Redstarts, Chestnut-bills, & Black & white Capons being the most numerous. There were also many Oven Birds & Maryland Yellow-throats & I was fairly out of hearing of the high note of the Red-breasted Grosbeak. Near the Parula's nest a Golden-winged Warbler was singing & I should not wonder if this piece of woods is a regular breeding ground for this species for the conditions look favorable. White-throated Sparrows common to-day. Saw a single Yellow Red-bell in a bush-grass pasture.



1898.

May 17

Clear and warm through the day with violent wind and a dash of rain at sunset followed by a cool evening with brilliant northern lights.

(from Cambridge.)

Went back to Concord by the 8.34 train this morning. Spent the day working upon the cabin. Common birds numerous. Saw one Heron - Beld's Cuckoo & one Water Thrush.

N. Deane arrived by the 5.30 train. We took a short walk after tea having a Canada Rail and two Martins and being 22 Greater Yellow-legs, 19 in one flock and 3 in another, flying over the Great Woods. A Partridge was downing on the stone wall behind Davis Hill.

Several Oven-birds sang in and over the woods.

We heard many Wilson's Thrushes coming out upon bay.

The Swamps were alive with Maryland Yellow-throats which were singing furly. A ♂ Marsh Hawk was seen flying along the Bedford River.

1898.

May 18

Cloudless, cool in the early morning, very warm through the middle of the day. Wind light and variable N. to E. in intervals of dead calm.

Took a long walk with Dean in the forenoon starting at 8.30 and getting back to the cabin a little after noon. The whole country was swarming with birds. I have rarely ever seen so many come at this season. They were very evenly distributed and we went with no flocks anywhere but every thicket, however small, harbored something of more or less interest. The best things met with were a ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler, seen near the spring in Mrs. Barrett's woods, and a White-crowned Sparrow found among bushes behind Bureau's house. We saw or heard three Blue-brown Warblers (two in Lawrence's woods), three Black-throated Blue Warblers, six or seven Black & Yellow Warblers, six Wilson's Black caps, seven Tanagers (one ♀), four Solitary Vireos (one on Holder's Hill, two behind Bureau's, and one near Mrs. Barrett's), four Yellow-throated Vireos, several Red-eyes and a host of common birds.

One of the prettiest sights we saw was an apple orchard (Mrs. Barrett's) in fullest bloom with a score or more of Warblers - Black & Yellow, Black-throated Green, Myiophobus, Rosebreasted & Parula - flitting about among the clusters of pink & white clusters of flowers probing them for insects or honey (?). I know not whether they were singing freely. This I have not seen before for many years. I had almost begun to distrust my recollection of its occurrence in the

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1898

May 18
(Tue)

days of my boyhood on the old place in Cambridge before the House Sparrows came. It would be difficult to conceive any picture more charming than that before our eyes to-day as we lay under the apple trees with the buds & blossoms above us and the grass, already tall & dense, ~~forming~~ forming an emerald carpet beneath & around us. From the fields beyond the orchard came the merry music of Robins and in the oak & pine woods behind wood birds of many kinds were singing. Among them was a Golden-winged Warbler whose song broke the spell and turned us into a long & fruitless pursuit for we failed to get a near view of him.

While in Lawrence's woods I looked carefully and persistently for the Great Horned Owl. The old birds could not be found but to my great delight I at length discovered both the young perched side by side on the branch of a big pine nearly fifty feet above the ground, one ~~standing~~ erect, the other crouched ~~lengthwise~~ on the limb like a big Gnatcatcher. It is little more of a miracle that both should have escaped the dangers which surrounded them. One looked much larger than the other. Both their tails showed a good deal of down through which the mature feathers were beginning to show conspicuously.

The Partridge's nest was also safe with its thirteen eggs. One of them, however, lay on the ground

1898.

May 18
(No 3)

Several inches from the nest. I think it must have been rolled out by the bird who started and ran off after her usual fashion but without making her usual whining.

In a dry pasture we started a Field Sparrow from her nest which was sunk in the ground under a bush and contained three eggs.

On our way back we passed through the Hoacic Hollow to see what the Cooper's Hawks were about. The ♂ backed at us as we approached and we started then I from her nest which is placed in a tall pine nearly 50 feet above the ground. Under this tree near the nest we found where the Hawks had killed a Robin and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo scattering wing, tail & body feathers over the ground. The ♀ Hawk looked very large. She left the nest before we quite got beneath it and flew off very bravely & cleanly for a bird of this kind.

After dinner Dean climbed to the nest & found that it contained only one egg. It was lined with grass & a few pine needles.

At the lower edge of Mrs. Bassett's orchard we started a ♀ Wood-winged Hawk. It flew nearly over us carrying a mouse in its talons. I have practically no doubt that it was the same bird that Parker & I saw in the same place on May 1st & which I thought at the time to be a

1898.

May 18

(No 4)

Small & Red-shouldered Hawks, getting on a distant view of it. It must be breeding somewhere near.

While we were in Lawrence's woods a large, adult Red-tailed Hawk came soaring over us. I have not seen one near here in the breeding season before for several years.

There must be a Red-shouldered Hawks nest somewhere in this vicinity for a bird was screaming loudly in Davis' swamp this forenoon.

Blue Jays were remarkably scarce about Concord through March, April & the early part of May & Perkins told me on May 1 that he had noted their absence elsewhere near Boston. But during the past week they have appeared here in their usual numbers and to-day we saw them almost everywhere - at least eight or ten birds in all.

Cedar-birds appeared to-day for the first time.

Bull Frogs began trumping all over the marshes to-day. I have heard one or two before but no general alarm in this. Hylas & Leopard Frogs are still as noisy as ever.

1898.

May 18
(No 5)

At 3.30 P. M. we took the old boat and started up river. Several Spotted & Solitary Sandpipers were seen at Dallas' Hill and as we entered the Holt on board Greater Yellow-Gys observing. We soon discovered them scattered about on the meadow on the east side of the river and running the boat in there watched them for half-an-hour or more. There were just fifteen of them on this meadow while a solitary bird was feeding on the other side of the stream.

As we were within fifty or sixty yards of the main flock we had a fine chance to observe them. One or two birds, apparently acting as sentinels stood erect & tall on the tops of the tussocks while the others crouched about through the short grass probing the mud for food. When one of the sentinels whistled all the other birds raised their heads & stood motionless until the alarm subsided. Then we finally moved on and the flock rose & flew off one Dallas' Hill but they returned & picked down into the meadow again a few minutes later. All the time we were here the Boatmen were walking the meadow rim with their wings & a Boatman was pumping in the distance.

Two Least Sandpipers were feeding with the Yellow-Gys and on a mud bar just above the Holt we found a flock of five small waterfowl. At least three birds were Spermophila.

1898.

May 18

(No 6)

The following species were noted to-day all, & it observed,
within a mile of the cabin:

1. Turdus fuscus (15)
2. Muscula nigropennis
3. Scotis dialis (3)
4. Galeoscoptes carolinensis (12)
5. Harporhynchus rufus (4)
6. Cistothorus palustris (1)
7. Parus atricapillus (2)
8. Miniopterus varia (20)
9. Hemithysanota ruficapilla (12)
10. " Chrysopygia (18)
11. Compsothlypis a. agnata (12)
12. Dendroica aestiva (3)
13. " caeruleascens (3)
14. " coronata (38812)
15. " maudslowi (5)
16. " pusillirostris (25)
17. " costaricensis (18)
18. " blackburniana 388
19. " viridis (25)
20. " viridis (4)
21. Siurus auricapillus (25)
22. Geothlypis trichas (20)
23. Sylvania pusilla (6)
24. " canadensis (1)
25. Setophaga ruticilla (15)
26. Vireo olivaceus (3)
27. " solanus (4)
28. " flavivirens (2)
29. Ampelis cedrorum
30. Progne subis (4)
31. Petrochelidon lunifrons
32. Chelidon cythereaster
33. Chiricola leucophaea
34. Piranga erythrorhynchos 68819
35. Spirurus tristis (11)
36. Passerculus grammacus (2)
37. Zonotrichia albicollis (12)
38. " leucophrys (1)
39. Tachycineta bicolor (2)
40. Spirilla socialis (3)
41. " pusilla (37 mē 3 mē)
42. Melospiza fasciata (4)
43. " georgiana (2)
44. Pipilo erythrophthalmus (2)
45. Habia ludoviciana 888422
46. Dolichonyx oryzivorus
47. Molothrus ater
48. Agelaius phoeniceus
49. Icterus galbula (3)
50. Zenaidura macroura (1)
51. Corvus americanus (6)
52. Cyanocitta cristata (8)
53. Tyrannus tyrannus (10)
54. Sayornis phoebe (1)
55. Contopus virens (1)
56. Empidonax minimus (3)

1898.

May 18

- (No 7)
57. Chaetura pelagica (20)
 58. Myiagotis furficans (2)
 59. Colaptes auratus (3)
 60. Ceryle alcyon (1)
 61. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus (2)
 62. Bubo virginianus (2 young)
 63. Accipiter cooperii (8 ♀ + 1 egg)
 64. Buteo borealis (1)
 65. " lineatus (1)
 66. " calurus (1)
 67. Bonasa umbellus 3 + new 13 ygs.
 68. Tamias macroura (1)
 69. Passerina caerulea (1)
 70. " jaesickii (?) the "Hiller" (1)
 71. Linga minutilla (2)
 72. Geothlypis trichas (3)
 73. Totanus melanoleucus (16)
 74. " solitarius (2)
 75. Actitis macularia (2)
 76. Botaurus lentiginosus (2)
 77. Nycticorax n. naevius (2)
 78. Anas obscura (1)
 79. Sarus montanaensis (3)

1898.

May 19

Clear and the warmest day thus far, with west winds. Thunder showers in the evening, all but our passing around to the N.

Spent the day near the cabin. Small birds continued very abundant but I saw fewer unmistakable migrants (such as Western Thrushes & other western-breeding warblers) than yesterday. Near the east end of Ball's Hill among the birches, already dense with foliage, and the oaks, covered with delicate pink & salmon leaflets just opening, were congregated during most of the day a large number of birds including a pair each of Junco and Grosbeaks, an Oriole, a Black-poll, Wilson's Black-cap, Black & Yellow and Hooded Merganser, uncounted Chipping Sparrows and Redstarts, several Black & White Chipping, a Red-eyed Vireo, several Blue Jays and Robins, and then a few Wilson's Thrushes. I also saw here very fine Hummingbird, a ♀. I thought.

At evening I walked to Davis's Hill and back by way of Barnes's field and the river shore. The air was chilly and oppressive and mosquitoes swarmed everywhere. Wilson's Thrushes singing freely everywhere. The first Night-hawk peeping over Holden's windows. A Heron jumping and a number of Yellow-legs whistling on Great Meadow. Heard the first Tree-toad yesterday; they were in full cry everywhere to-night as were also Hylas and Toads, the last giving the harsh, hoarse croak.

1898.

May 19
(No 2.)

During my evening walk I also heard three Carolina Parakeets singing. One of them was in the meadow opposite (a little above) the cabin and I believe it called without cessation the whole night long for whenever I was awake its clear, plaintive cr-e came to my ears at short regular intervals. It ceased at day break not long after a few minutes after the Picken began pumping.

A Robin's nest by the side of the path behind Bock's Hill had two eggs at about 10 A. M. on the 17th. At 2 P. M. on the 18th there were four! Hence the bird must have laid two within sixteen ~~hours~~ ^{hours}. She is an unusually shy, nervous Robin invariably leaving her eggs as soon as we show ourselves anywhere within thirty or forty yards. When the nest was only half-completed she would make as great an outcry at our approach as an ordinary Robin does when it has ~~four~~.

A ♀ Redstart was building to-day collecting her materials from a tent caterpillar nest near the cabin.

Rhodora & wild geranium in full bloom. Apple trees past their prime but still very showy in the distance.

1898.

May 20

Morning clear and warm with fresh west wind.

Spent two hours or more immediately after breakfast rambling about in the woods on and behind Ball's Hill. They were briefly humming with birds but the only noteworthy breeding species noted was a Wilson's Black-Cap, ^{a Black-throated} a Winter Wren, a Canadian Warbler (one or two pairs had here) and a Lincoln's Finch. All the others were species which I never have but it hardly seems possible that all could have been really on local birds. There was a few humming-birds and a few more song sparrows.

I found the Lincoln's Finch in a thicket of alders and conifers surrounded by dense young white pines. It was very tame & fearless allowing me to approach within a few yards and I watched it for fifteen or twenty minutes. It spent the whole of this time on the ground rambling about and feeding among the fallen leaves which it trod about with its bill but did not once attempt to run or by scratching with its feet. It was devoid of movement and altogether much less alert and animated in appearance than a Song Sparrow and its gait was at all times a hopping one whereas the Song Sparrow often walks. It had much less buffy than usual and might have been easily mistaken for a small, dark Song Sparrow by a superficial observer. It occasionally perched a few moments to back in the dense in little openings among the bushes. I did not hear it utter any sound.

1898.

May 20
(No. 2)

On the better side of Ball's Hill a ♀ Grosbeak was at work on her nest which she had only just begun. It was in a very unusual situation about 30 ft. above the ground near the extremity of a long, horizontal branch of a white pine in the middle of a dense cluster of green needles. The bird was collecting long, slender dried twigs. Then she broke off the ends of the branches flying upward, driving them in her bill, then dropping backwards & catching her wings precisely as the Trogon does when breaking off berries in pincodes. She appeared to prefer the twigs of the high blueberry. Not once did she get any material from the ground. The ♂ did not offer her any assistance but he sang glowingly in an oak near the pine all the time she was at work.

For my walk this evening I chose the oak-clad ridges of the Millbrook woods. Over birds and Scarlet Tanagers were singing on the high ground, Wilson's Thrushes, Maryland Yellow-throats and a Grosbeak in the swamps below. In the distance towards Ball's Hill I heard a Quail whistling. The birds were out in great numbers and the Hylos added their voices to the chorus. To the westward, on the Great Meadows, a Bittern was humping and two Carolina Rails singing. I found several Cuckoo's Bluffs in full bloom on the summit of this ridge.

Vancouver

1898

May 20

(No. 3)

As I was descending the western slope of the highest knoll I saw below me a black & white object moving rather quickly over the ground under the trees. I stopped & I did not know when I at once perceived that it was a Skunk. For several minutes it remained motionless waving its head about, however, and sniffing the air. Evidently it did not see but had merely heard me. Presently its alarm diminished and it began rambling about looking for food. I was surprised at the slowness of its movements and the thoroughness of its search. During the descending half-hour it did not cover a space greater than three or four rods square but literally every foot of this area was carefully inspected. But content with rooting into every bunch of dead leaves it dug dozens of holes first plunging its sharp nose into the ground and then using its fore feet working the dirt fly. While thus engaged it carried its beautiful, bushy, black & white tail raised and strongly arched like the tail of a Cock but when it moved forward its tail was carried straight out behind & nearly or quite horizontal. Its gait was a slow, waddling walk never the pacing motion which I have heard that Skunks usually adopt. Its head was carried low with the nose pointing straight down, the line of the forehead being, as a rule, nearly vertical. I did not see as it found any food but inferred that it was searching rather for leavings or turtles' eggs. After I had watched it as

1898.

May 20

(No. 4)

Long as I cared to I got a handful of stones and began throwing them at it in quick succession. As each one struck the snake would give a little jump and then its rear toward the spot with its tail raised threateningly. At length it bowed me (I stood all the while within twenty feet) and started for its hole, which was only a few yards distant, moving rather quickly and once or twice actually bounding into a clumsy gallop. On reaching the hole it at once disappeared. My chief object in throwing the animal was to see if it would give its scent but it did not do so.

A little before sunset I heard high notes squealing and booming and saw pass a flock of horned geese over at a moderate height towards the north & apparently migrating. As I came out into Benson's field I found two blurring geese on the ground. A few minutes later a bluffsman, the first I have heard this spring, began singing in the distance towards Mrs. Bennett's woods.

Mosquitoes have been increasing in numbers rapidly & late & to night are very numerous and annoying.

1898.

May 21

Clear and rather cool with strong E. wind.

Spent the day at work near the cabin. Just after breakfast went to the ~~Head~~ ridge to get the God's! Luff. Found one coming. Heard a solitary bird singing on the back side of Ball's Hill.

C. E. Taylor and B. M. Watson arrived by the 6.38 train.
After supper we walked to the Mason field where a
Whippoorwill was singing. Two Carolina Kites were feeding
on the Great Meadow.

On the evening of May 18th, I heard soon after dark
what I felt nearly here was my old friend the "Kicker" (Psalmist) reappears on
psalmist?) And on the two following nights the same bird was
singing in the same place - the lower end of Great Meadows
about opposite Burns's Landing. On all these occasions the wind
and the clamor of the Frogs & Toads made it difficult to get
the full song and as I missed the terminal "caw" I thought
it possible that the notes were uttered by the Virginia Rail
although I have never heard this bird give more than two "kicks"
whereas this call had at least five or six. But to night at
about 11 P. M. the whole song came distinctly to my ears
as I lay in bed and I heard a dozen times or more
the ki-ki-ki-ki, ki-keer of our mysterious nocturnal
bugster which was so abundant in Middlesex County in
the Spring of 1889 and which I heard the following
summer at Falmouth and here at the cabin in
June 1892. Evidently he has again taken up his abode
in the Great Meadows. Thus far I have not once heard
him until night has fairly closed in.

1898.

May 22

Clear and warm with moderate S.W. wind; the evening cool and uneventful.

Spent the whole forenoon in the woods with Haxson (C. S.) and Watson. He first ascended and ascended Ball's Hill and then went to Lawrence's woods by the river for the purpose of one way to the museum and a fishing with Mrs. Bannister's woods. Let the Bannister of Hotel Holden join us. The weather was simply perfect and as Haxson remarked the day appeared to mark the culmination or high tide mark of May with the apple orchards full in full bloom, the oaks pink, salmon, orange and ash gray with unfolding leaves, and the ladies' hoppers coming in full bloom in the hawthorn places about the place.

birds were abundant everywhere but the end of the
migration appeared to be nearly reached for the only
considerable northern-breeding species met with during
the forenoon were the Northern Water Thrush and Swainson's Thrush.

By the former we saw two of the latter two were heard singing rather freely (one given in full voice) in Prescott pines.

In Laurence's woods we heard a Black-burnian Warbler (which I think will probably breed there) and saw over more than two young Great Horned Owls one in the same pine (but not on the same branch), as on the 18th, the other rather far from in the upper tree. They still looked quite young. The head and a strip of skin from the back, of a skin hanging from a twig near by (a few feet only above the ground) & the whole neighborhood smelt strongly.

The Partridge was this morn'g on her 13 eggs in the
Barren woods, & the Field sparrow on 3 eggs in the
meadow near the lake. The Cooper's Hawk started from the west in
an ~~hour~~ ^{hour} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~morning~~ ^{morning} and ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~ ^{hawk} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~woods~~ ^{woods} ~~near~~ ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~lake~~ ^{lake} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hawk~~

1898.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

May 29

Forenoon cloudy; afternoon clear with light S. wind.

I went to Cambridge on the 23rd and spent the week there. It rained more or less every day and on several days heavily. The migration seems to have totally come to an end on the 22nd for since then I have not met with a single northern breeding bird. In or near the old garden in Cambridge I saw or heard during the week Robins, Yellow Warblers (only one pair in the garden), Redstarts (only one pair on one flower), Red-eyed Vireo (one bird singing in the lindens), Warbling Vireo (one singing May 24th), Yellow-throated Vireo (one heard May 28), Purple Finch (one singing May 28), Chipping Sparrow (one only), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (one singing regularly in our garden, another on Fagerstraw Street), Browned Grackle (one pair), Red-winged Blackbird (two 33 in the swamp behind Mr. Smith's on Fagerstraw Street) two birds flying over our garden on the evening of the 27th, Least Flycatcher (one singing in Dr. Wyman's willows), Chickadee (one singing in the Wyman willows on the 27th), ^{Chimney Swifts, several} ~~one~~ in our garden on the morning of the 28th, Black-bellied Grackle (one singing on May 24th), Yellow-bellied Grackle (one singing daily in or near the garden), Crow (several flying over the garden daily), Night Heron (two flying over the garden on the evening of the 27th), ^{altogether} a list of eighteen species all, no doubt, settled for the season.

Birds settled
in or near
our garden.

1898.
May 29
(Wed.)

Returned to Ball's Hill by the 1.13 P. M.
train. The recent heavy rains have sent the
river all over the meadows for the third time
this spring and Gilbert met me at the bars
with the old boat. This late rise of the water
must have destroyed most of the Red-wings' nests
but the birds were scattered about in the
usual numbers singing on the button bushes
and chasing the Crows. At evening I heard
two Carolina Rails and three Baldpates, as well
as the Bay-Bird wailing tones.

Night Hawks fly past the cabin every morning
and evening on their way to and from the
heavenly in the Bedford Swamp where I hear
about a dozen pairs are breeding this spring on
Mr. Jewell's land. They usually appear here a
little before sunset but sometimes as late as
early in the afternoon.

At evening I walked to Davis's Hill. The birds
were singing freely but I heard only common species
including the Thrushes in full song. Wilson's Thrushes,
Oven-birds, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Maryland Yellow-
throats, and Cat-birds were most numerous. I heard two
Grackles and two Juncos.

As I was passing the Glacier Hollow in the twilight
I heard a great number of Hylas peeping in chorus. Peeping in
On investigating I found that they were in the woods
from woods on the sides & crevices of the ridges. They were on high ground
calling the shrill spring peeping only.

1898

May 30

Cloudy most of the day with occasional gleams of hot sunshine & moderate W. wind.

After breakfast walked to Davis' Hill by the river, picked up and back over the pine ridges. *Boeck's* *Staphylin* in full bloom everywhere. I have found some *Fringed Polygala* which I let out in 1892 & which I have not seen since. It has spread over a good deal of ground under some young white pines behind *Boeck's* Hill. Several plants, both purple & white, were in full bloom to-day.

Yesterday evening I saw a large Milk Acker at the E. end of *Boeck's* Hill. He was in nearly the same place this evening. On both occasions he cooed and forced me with a very threatening expression. This evening he vibrated his tail rapidly, making a whirring sound audible at a distance of several yards. The tip of the tail was raised and as nearly as I could see it did not flicker any thing excepting on an occasion when he got it among some dry leaves. He struck viciously at a stick which I picked at him.

A pair of Juncos appeared near the cabin more than a week ago & ever since have been seen daily wherever we have been. I found their usual comfortable nest this morning in a dense cluster of oak twigs directly over one of our paths & not eight feet above the ground. The birds have been looking at it & have afterwards

1898.

May 30
(no 2)

The pine flows away, acting as if they had decided to desert the place.

The Spalmans appeared at dinner before noon and dined with us. After dinner we all went down river together as far as the pretty wooded knoll below the "Two Brothers" boulders. Two camps have been built on this knoll since our last visit but no trees have been cut. There are several remarkably fine white pines one of which must be nearly if not quite 100 feet tall. The largest perfect measured about six feet in circumference at two feet above the ground.

On the way back I landed at the Swift farm and dry a number of fine *Cedrus* 'sappins in full bloom. I sailed almost the entire distance back.

Heard a great many common birds. *Bobolinks* were very numerous on *Marble's* Banks just below *Carlisle* bridge but I did not note them elsewhere.

A *Doe* was coming in *Barren's* woods. *Tanagers* and *Wood Pewees* were seldom long out of hearing.

Two Phoebe's were in full song, one at *Carlisle* bridge, the other near a boat house lower down river.

I have not either heard or seen one near *Boyle's Hill* for a while or more.

Have any *Green Herons*? I have seen none since their first arrival.

1898
May 31

Warm with alternating cloudiness and sunshine.
Evening clear and calm.

Spent the forenoon getting plants for my
wild-flower garden, rambling through the woods
on the Bedford side of the river opposite the
cabin. Heard a Parula Warbler thru in full
song.

At evening paddled up river landing at Dallen's
Hill where I strolled about until it was nearly
dark. As I was returning I saw three light-browed
flying about over the woods on Holden's Hill.

June 1 Clear with violent N. E. wind.

Spent the day working near the cabin. A
Wilson's Black-capt sang through the forenoon in
the thicket near the corner landing. This and the
Parula Warbler heard yesterday are the only migrants
that I have noted lately. The flight of Black-poll
was very light and passed unusually early this spring.

At evening walked up through the fields to
Bourne's and back by way of the pine woods.
A fine chorus of Wilson's Thrushes. Towhees singing
until it was almost dark. Saw a remarkably
tame Rabbit. It kept just out of my reach
and I could not catch it even by walking
at it.

1898.

June 2

Cloudy with strong E. wind and frequent showers.

Crossed the river soon after breakfast and spent the entire forenoon rambling in the woods looking for plants for my wild garden. Found one hard fern in a sandy bank and a few of the winter rock ferns on a ledge among columbines.

Heard a Towhee, a Nashville Warbler, and a number of common birds. Two Carolina Rails drying at evening.

Pat told me yesterday that Davis (the warden here), had a young Great Horned Owl that had been given to him alive by Lawrence. I asked him to walk further upstream and to-day he brought word that Lawrence had found two young Owls in his woods by the river. One he caught, the other escaped. Davis was kind enough to send me the captured bird which I shall restore to its native woods as soon as it can fly well. It looks like the larger of the two and looks much as it did when I last saw it in the toll pen. I hope that it is true that the other young escaped.

1898

June 3

A heavy N.E. storm with violent wind and steady rain from evening to night.

Spent most of the day in the cabin but late in the afternoon walked to Davis's Hill. Saw nothing of any special interest.

" 4

Cloudy with heavy rain all day. At sunset the rain stopped and the sky cleared in the N.W. but the strong N.E. wind still holds.

Parkin arrived by the 5:30 train this afternoon. After supper we took a short walk. The evening was cool and there was but little singing. Even the Wilson's Thrushes were nearly silent. Last night they sang very freely and freely in the rain. Like the Hermit Thrushes they sang greatly in individual proficiency. One that I listened to last evening had an exceptionally clear, pure voice and his execution was without a flaw. I have never heard a better singer.

C. J. K. K.

1898

June 5

A rare day, cloudless with a moderate N.E. wind which tempered the heat of the strong June sun. The early morning and late evening were very cool.

Starting at 8.30 Purdin and I were out in the forenoon having a most interesting and altogether delightful walk. We visited Davis's Hill, Prescott's pines, Lawrence's pines and Mrs. Bennett's woods. Late in the afternoon we went to the Blackman woods and Holch's Hill.

Although a Wilson's Black-cop has spent the past few days in the pine thicket just east of the cabin where he was this singing this morning I think it is safe to assume that the migration is practically at an end and that all the other birds that we found to-day were settled for the breeding season. The most interesting were the male Black-throated Warblers in full song, two in Lawrence's woods, the third in some hemlock on Mrs. Bennett's land. We also heard no less than four Solitary Vireos, one in the pines on Purdin's ridge, another in the tall oaks behind Purdin's house, a third in Prescott's pines, and the fourth in Lawrence's woods. The Parula Warblers seem to have deserted the last-named locality where they were breeding in 1886-1887.

Chipping Sparrows & Towhees are scarce in this neighborhood. We heard only one of each to-day & but one Indigo Bird. Towhees & Grackles are

1898

June 5
(No 2)

quite up to their normal numbers but there are apparently fewer Oven-birds than usual.

We found a number of nests one of the Black & white Creeper with four slightly incubated eggs, two of the Chestnut-sided Warbler, two Red-eyed Vireos' building and a Blue Jay's on which the bird was sitting but which we did not examine closely.

The Field Sparrow's nest found May 18th in Mrs. Russell's pasture had three young almost fully grown and feathered to-day.

The Creeper's nest was on a hillside, within a few feet of a path, under the spreading branches of a solitary pine deeply sunk in the ground among the stems of some low blueberry bushes. It was about two yards from the trunk of the pine. The female came crawling out of the bushes as we brushed past and tumbled about, as if badly wounded, in the middle of the path. The pine stands in an opening with no other tree very near it.

One of the Chestnut-sided Warbler's nests - the one with the four eggs - was prettily placed in a green birch vine - a very unusual situation. It was wholly unconcealed by the foliage for it was supported by two stems of the vine which were bare of leaves for some distance above & below the nest.

Both Red-eyes' nests were in white pines.

1898.

June 6

Morning clear and calm. Clouds gathered in the afternoon bringing light rain at evening. There was a strong S. E. breeze in the afternoon.

Spent the forenoon working in the cabin. At 4 P. M. started for Concord sailing most of the way and landing at the Buttericks'. Made several calls and took tea at the Keyes'. It was raining when I left there a little before nine o'clock and the night was so dark that I could hardly find my way back to the canoe under the gloom of the willows at the landing. Nevertheless I had an exceptionally pleasant and interesting paddle down to Balls Bluff. At first I heard nothing but the harsh drone sweep of innumerable loods and the occasional clomp of a Bull Frog but as I entered the meadows I began to hear Carolina Rails and presently the song of the mysterious "Kicker" came faintly to my ears. The latter bird proved to be somewhere near the middle of the Great Meadow about opposite the upper end of the Hall. At the same reach but very near the river bank three Short-billed Marsh Wrens were singing, not intermittently or at wide intervals, as most diurnal birds sing when heard at night, but steadily, continuously and with really exceptional vigor while the intervals between the songs were much shorter than I have ever known them to be in the daytime. The Concord Cloud struck rain as I sat listening and the night was as dark and rainy as ever. I have little doubt that these Wrens kept up their concert

Summit, N.M.

1898.

June 6
(No 2)

during the remainder of the night. I had heard three long-billed Wrens at the Beaver Rapids on my way up stream in the afternoon but they were all silent when I reached the spot on my return.

The Pitters were also perfectly silent this evening although two of them were pumping steadily in the afternoon. There can be no question that the Pitters is strictly diurnal in its habits although it pumps late into the evening twilight and is usually the first bird to begin at day break.

There were only three Carolina Rails living on the entire stretch of the Great Meadows to-night but they kept it up without the slightest cessation as long as I was within hearing. One had a peculiar voice, almost continuous in tone and with a queer double note at the beginning the call being really of three instead of the normal two syllables thus er-er-e. This is the first occasion in the history of this species that I remember to have heard. The song of the Carolina Rail is most nearly like the feather-call of the Quail but it also suggests the peep of the Hylas. Despite its plaintive almost sad quality it is to my ear one of the most pleasing sounds that one hears in our fresh water marshes.

1898.

June 7

Clear and very warm with light N. to S. winds.

Spent the forenoon photographing birds' nests
offering plates on the Chestnut-sided Warblers in
the granitic rim, the Audubon under the white
pine, and the Cooper's Hawks (described) in
the Glacial Hollows.

The Chestnut-side was very nervous keeping
her head in almost constant motion & coming
the nest frequently while I was at work.

The Cooper, on the other hand, sat perfectly
motionless and we left her on the nest without
having been disturbed here.

At evening there was a fairly deafening
drum along the river made by unnumbered birds,
The Robs, Bull Frogs, and Green Frogs. The
Hyles and Leopard Frogs have apparently ceased for
this season. The Great Hyles was heard on
the evening of the 4th, the Great Leopard Frog
on the 5th.

Early this morning a bird made a singular
drip, gurgling sound in the pines on Ball's Hill.
I think it would have been a Green Heron.

C. C. C. C. C.





Winter Forest



Lancaster & Concord, Mass.

1898.

June 8

Clear and very warm with strong S.W. wind.

I went to Lancaster to-day. Leaving the station at 7 a. m. Gilbert and I rode up river to Hooksett Bridge where I landed and walked to the station. Although the morning was cloudless and calm the birds did not sing at all freely. In the forest and forest only eight Robins.

At Lancaster I took a drive of some hours with C. and E. R. S. Meadows Larks were more numerous than I have ever seen them elsewhere in Massachusetts excepting on Cape Cod. The country about Lancaster is well suited to them with its broad, level grassy fields & meadows. Robins were also common but with exception only so. I heard Mocking birds & Purple Finches in the village.

Birds seen
at Lancaster,
Mass.

Returned to Concord in the late afternoon and to Hall's Hill by train to W. Bedford.

1898.

June 9

Clear with light W. to N. winds. Very warm at noon.

Spent the forenoon on the meadow above opposite Hollis Hill where I met by appointment Albert Wood, the surveyor, and Mr. Arnold, a farmer. The object of this meeting was to determine the boundaries of some twenty acres of meadow which I have just bought of Charles S. Smith of Lincoln.

While we were talking about two Carolina Parakeets were singing and one of the Robins pumping on frequent intervals. I also heard the first Chat that I have ever met with in Concord. At long two or three times very near me in oak scrub (opposite ones of two years growth) near the roadway that comes down to the meadow from the Nevins farm. I think the bird, if established there, must be nesting on the other side of the pasture where, along a rail fence, stretches a thicket of green birch that would do credit to Southern Connecticut or the Middle States. Arnold says that he drove a cow into this thicket last year ~~to~~ that she was absolutely unable to find her way through it.

The "Killer" was singing this evening somewhere out on the Great Meadow.

1898.

June 10

Clear and cool with light N.E. to S.E. wind.

Spent most of the day at work in or near the cabin but late in the afternoon I took a long walk in the woods with Miss Marion & Miss Alice Hayes. We went to Davis's Hill and through the Pleasant Woods seeing & hearing a great many common birds. As we came in sight of the Mason field a fine school of Marsh Hawks, the first I have seen for several weeks, crossed the opening flying rather high & in a straight line evidently on his way to some distant place.

In the cluster of bushes just behind Ball's Hill we stood on a hen Partridge with a brood of young which were of about the size of newly-hatched chickens. They scattered in every direction when warning others flying, all peeping in shrill peep tones. The mother meanwhile went through the usual performance. Her pitious whining seemed to me to be almost exactly like that of a cold and hungry puppy & both of my companions agreed that they should never have suspected that the sound was made by a bird.

The Skunks have begun their annual raid on the Thrushes' nests. We found at least eight or ten nests that had been dry open last night with the shells scattered about over the ground. Most of these nests were in the opening between Benson's hedge & Davis's Hill.

1898.

June 11

Cloudy most of the day with occasional sprinkles of rain but the sky cleared before sunset.

At intervals through the forenoon as I was at work near the cabin I heard the ki-ki-ki-ki, ki-kee of the unknown "Kikar" coming from near the middle of the Great Meadow. Soon after sunset the bird began again and sang steadily up to the time I went to bed. He had apparently come a little nearer although as I walked along the river path to Benson's Landing I could with difficulty catch the final "chee" or kee of his song. What was my surprise therefore to find that as I continued on my walk and turned my back to the river I carried the sound of the ki-ki far inland without seeming to lose much of its strength. I actually heard it with reasonable distinctness when I reached Davis's Hill although this point is nearly half-a-mile distant from Benson's Landing with a pine covered range of hills between.

There is another peculiarity about the song of the "Kikar" which I remember to have noted ~~the~~ ^{that} person whom the bird was so common about Cambridge & which impresses me constantly here now. It is that the sound changes continually in volume, the increase and decrease being sometimes gradual & sometimes abrupt. Ordinarily every fourth or fifth repetition comes loud & distinct but sometimes, an especially distinct repetition precedes a particularly faint one. Gilbert thought this owing that the bird must be flying about over

Oswald, 1908.

1898.

June 11

(No 2)

the meadow but I have little doubt that he is all the time on the ground and that he citters face in different directions, making a greater turn ~~between~~ after each song like a peeping woodcock or that he is running about and that the volume of the sound depends upon whether his voice comes from an open space or from under a weed or his dense tangle of grass.

Saw the first firefly this evening.

1898

June 12

Clear and the warmest day thus far. Light W. to S.W. winds.

The day was chiefly taken up with visitors of which we had an unusual number. The *Bettulites* came by dozens, the Sparrows called on their way down river, Dick Baethel stopped to tell me of an Orchard Oriole that he had seen and heard near the minute man.

Despite these interruptions I got three good walks in the woods.

At about 9 a.m. a Golden-winged Warbler sang three or four times in the maples over the boat landing in front of the cabin.

At day break this morning and from a little after sunset until I went to sleep the "Killer" was chanting his merry little song in the Great Meadow. I heard it very many times to great advantage for the bird was nearer than he has been on former occasions and the air was perfectly still. The number of his notes varied from five to seven or eight. (It is very difficult to count them they are given so rapidly). Their delivery is sometimes smooth with even intervals, sometimes halting with the intervals varying greatly in length. The voice of this bird is somewhat grating and harsh throughout, the terminal chee being especially so.

Visiting the Cuckoo's nest this morning I found that the eggs had not only hatched but that the young were already quite large & covered with dark, abundant pin feathers. The ♀ was absent.

1898.

June 12.

(No 2.)

All day long the wooded slope of Ball's Hill up the river was alive with turtles on their way from a to the water. I saw three species the Painted Tortoise being the most common, the small Snapping Turtle next in numbers while of the Large Tortoise I found but one. I could have sworn that I could not be walking a continuous, long walking among the dead leaves.

At about 4 P. M. I came on a Large Painted Tortoise laying her eggs in an opening by the side of a foot path on the crest of the ridge above the cabin. She had dug a round hole four or five inches deep and about an inch in diameter in hard gravelly soil. At least one egg (and probably more) lay in the bottom of the hole where we discovered her. Within the next fifteen minutes we saw her lay seven eggs at intervals varying from one to three minutes. During this period she stood with her arms directly over the hole. The eggs were expelled with scarcely a perceptible effort. They all had a long deep groove on one side as if they had been indented by the pressure of a knife blade held parallel with the long axis of the egg. All of them dropped rapidly in the hole and sank as soon as it fell was pushed down firmly & without possibly by the turtle's hind feet nothing whatever being put between them. The presence of four people crowded in a circle around the turtle & talking & complying loudly did not interfere in the least with the animal's business which was evidently too pressing to be interrupted by such a trifling. When we crowded her too closely she would simply draw

1898

June 12
(no 3)

in her head but before another window had passed she would frequently hop out another egg. When the hatched or rather eighth had been laid the Lark began drawing the loose earth back over the hole & packing it down firmly with her hind feet. We had to leave her there. At 7 P.M. I went back & went for covering down the hill side. When I got to the nest I had to look long & carefully before I could find it. although I knew its exact position within ten or twelve inches. The Lark had sprinkled over it in the most cunning & in fact artistic manner dry leaves and bits of grass stems lightly laid & interlaced and scattering the surrounding surface exactly. When I removed this debris I found the ground beneath as hard as if it had were been disturbed. It was not until I had dug down to the eggs that I felt here that I really had the right spot. Within a few yards were two other nests that a Skunk had raided last night. I covered this nest with wire netting weighted with heavy stones. During the whole time we watched her the Lark did not once look back or even turn her head. I do not think that she saw one of her eggs.

As I was sitting on Ball's Hill this evening listening to two "Kickers" & two humming Robins I heard a Great Duck quacking & presently saw the bird alight in a pool opposite Benson's landing in the Great Meadows.

Concord, Mass., Wolfboro, N. H., Andover, Mass.

1898

June 13

Clear and cool with light E. wind.

Spent the forenoon near the cabin. Heard a Marsh-wren warbler singing on Ball's Hill and found a Yellow Warbler's nest with three eggs on the river shore at Benson's Landing.

Took the noon train to Cambridge.

June 14

Clear and very warm.

To Wolfboro N. H. by 9 A. M. train to the Mills where we were met by a steam launch. Crossing the lake saw a Bonaparte's Gull sitting on a buoy. It appeared to be an immature bird with a good deal of dark mottling on the head but no well-defined black head.

- " 14-15 Heard one Marsh-wren, one Yellow-throated Vireo, a Purple Finch, several Chipping Sparrows, two Orioles, one or two Song Sparrows, a Great Flycatcher and several Robins singing in the village of Wolfboro in evening. Purple Martins and Chipping Swifts were as numerous as ever & at least one pair of the Swallows were breeding in a bird box but the House Wrens appear to have deserted the town. Only one Bobolink singing in the Academy fields & no Song Sparrows heard there or elsewhere. English Sparrows in about the usual numbers.

" 16

Clear and cool. To Andover, Mass. by train arriving at 11 A. M. Walked about the village in the evening. Robins, Chipping, and Yellow-throated Vireos (two birds) singing.

" 17

To Merrimack by electric cars in the forenoon & back to Cambridge in the later afternoon.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1898.

June 18

Clear and cool with light W. wind.

Took a drive through Mt. Auburn this morning watching the birds most of the way and noting down with pencil & paper every bird seen or heard. Here is the list.

1. Muscula migratoria. - 10, 6 of which were singing
2. Dendroica aestiva. - 4, all singing.
3. Setophaga ruticilla. - 5, " "
4. Vireo olivaceus. - 4 " "
5. " flavifrons. - 1 "
6. Cardinalis purpureus. - 1 "
7. Spinus tristis. - 1 flying over
8. Spinus socialis. - 8, 6 of which were singing
9. Melospiza fasciata. - 2 singing 1 in deep hollow N. of zone, the other
singing vigorously near the S. entrance.
10. Agelaius phoeniceus. - 2 singing at Musk rat pond near Coolidge farm.
11. Lanius calurus cinereus. - 6 seen walking about on the ground
12. Corvus americanus. - 2.
13. Icterus galbula. - 18 singing in oaks.
14. Sayornis phoebe. - 2, 1 at bridge over pond where a pair has
nested for several years, the other at W. end of cemetery
15. Contopus virens. - 1 singing in oaks (I suspected to have nested)
16. Tyrannus tyrannus. - 1 near Musk rat pond.
17. Empidonax minimus. - 1 singing in oaks.

List of birds
found in
Mt. Auburn
Cemetery

To the above list the Flicker may be added without hesitation for it is certainly known to occur in the cemetery at all seasons.

Cambridge, Mass

1898.

June 18
(no 2.)

After leaving the Cemetery I drove through Fresh Pond Dam. Just beyond Gray's Pond, in the corner formed by Hanson Avenue and Fresh Pond Dam on the west side of the latter and about thirty yards back from the fence in the open field where an old house once stood a Yellow-winged Sparrow, the first that I have ever seen or heard of within the limits of Cambridge was sitting on a stump singing at short, regular intervals. His Pt, p't, c-c-c-c-c-c-c-c seemed to me stronger and fuller than vocal and I heard it distinctly when I was more than 200 yards away after passing the spot.

Yellow-winged
Sparrow near
Gray's Pond,
Cambridge.

Another bird that I have never noted before in Cambridge during the breeding season was a Pine Warbler that was singing in the white pine grove at Glenwood as I drove down Matthews Street on my way home.

Pine Warbler
at Glenwood

Here is a full list of the birds that I have seen or heard on one old place at Cambridge yesterday & to-day, Mr. Deane & Mrs. Ketchum have nothing to add to it.

1. Murea migratoria. Two & perhaps three pairs. Two nests found.
2. Dendroica aestiva. One pair only, feeding young to-day.
3. Setophaga ruticilla. " " "
4. Vireo olivaceus. One ♂ singing in his den.
5. Spizella socialis. One ♂ singing
6. Icterus galbula. " " "
7. Luscinia sylvia. Numbers of old & young feeding on ripe cherries.
8. Corvus americanus. Flying over daily.
9. Coccyzus americanus. A pair constantly in the garden where

List of birds
breeding on
or frequently
seen at
Cambridge.

their nest placed in a pear tree over a week at a night of 10 feet with one of the birds sitting was found by Mrs. Ketchum June 15.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1898.

June 18

(no 3)

10. Chaetura pelagica. One or two flying about at evening.Birds on
the old
floor.

The Warbling and Yellow-Throated Vireos visit the garden every few days but neither species appears to be nesting anywhere in the immediate neighborhood, although this is the first year within my remembrance when they have thus neglected us. Through April and May a Purple Finch appeared to be established on the place and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak sang in the jungle for nearly a week in the latter part of May but neither has been heard here of late. The Least Flycatcher is another species that is looking for the first time but I have heard one singing in the Myrums' willows on Sparks' Street. There is also a Black-billed Cuckoo living not far off for I hear his voice in the distance towards the Myrums' every few days.

Mrs. Kitterell tells me that there is a pair of Meadow Larks in the fields between Huron Avenue and Vernal Lane. I have not heard of any in this favorite old haunt for the past ten or twelve years but they have bred each season for the past four or five years on the Indian place a little beyond the First Pond crossing, a locality never frequented by them in the days of my boyhood.

Meadow
Larks return
to an old
& long abandoned
haunt

On June 6th A. Hathaway discovered a Killdeer Penn in the big clay pit just east of the Maple Swamp. It was seen there by Hathaway & Goltz on the 7th and by W. Deane, Hathaway & Goltz on the 8th.

Killdeer
in Cambridge

1898.

Jan 21

Heavy rain last night and cloudy up to nine o'clock when the sun came out, the remainder of the day being clear and very cool with light W. wind.

Returned to Concord by the 8.30 A.M. train. Found the country about Ball's Hill especially fresh and green owing to the abundant rains of the past month. The river continues high and we embarked at the end of the ditch on the Belfast shore with some difficulty.

I spent the afternoon with Pat opening a path between the ditch landing and Parkers landing. This will shorten the distance from the ditch to the railroad station nearly one half besides giving us an exceptionally beautiful path with some of the prettiest views over the meadows that I have yet discovered.

While thus engaged I discovered a *Merula* standing erect and still in the open meadow about fifty yards off. It had probably heard but evidently did not see me. Bill, neck and body rising among the grass in a perfectly straight line and at an inclination of about 45°. ~~It~~ found a curiously close imitation of a weather beaten and leaning stable. The feathers of the body were evidently compressed so that this part did not appear much thicker than the neck. The black stripes on the neck helped to make the bird inconspicuous by distracting the eye from the outline of the neck & body. After standing thus perfectly motionless for several minutes the bird would slowly draw down its neck and

1898.

Jan 21

(Wed.)

Cronching low with the head and neck carried close to the ground would move off at a steady and very rapid walk thrusting its way through the rank grasses to destination as soon as corner any of them tips to tremble. After going ten or fifteen yards I would stop and raise its head again.

Gilbert tells me that he heard the Whittens pumping through last week but they were silent to-day.

At evening I took a long walk, starting before sunset and staying out until the light had faded from the West. The day was cloudless, the air cool and refreshing and the birds sang with unusual fervor, and were making the woods and fields ring. I heard two Songsters, at least some different Wilson's Thrushes, a Whippoorwill and great numbers of the common birds.

I was surprised to hear two Partridges drumming at short, regular intervals, one on the stone wall at the east end of Ball's Hill, the other at the old Station at the north end of Davis's Swamp. I do not quite understand why they should have started drumming again so late in the season for the Ball's Hill bird, at least, has a brood of young several weeks old.

The Grass Finches and Field Sparrows were also singing freely but I heard neither Bluebirds nor Robins to-day.

1898.

Tunmd!
(No 3)

Without question the Wilson's Thrushes furnish the finest as well as the most capricious music of any of the birds which breed in this immediate region. As twilight was falling this evening they made the woods fairly ring with their clear, flute-like voices. They are almost as numerous in the pine woods on the tops & sides of the hills as in the swamps. There is less inequality and variability in the songs of different individuals than in the case with the Hermit and Wood Thrushes but yet there are some birds whose voices are finer and clearer and whose notes are more varied and interesting than those of the common run.

I do not wonder to have noted before that the Wilson's Thrush, like so many other birds, has favorite singing places to which it resorts day after day. This, at least, is true of a bird which is breeding somewhere near the east end of Ball's Hill and which sings every evening in the large red oak on the edge of Holden's woods sitting invariably not only on the same branch but actually on the same twig and always facing towards the north-west.

The House Wren is still in full song. A fine-souled bird ^{which} inhabits the oak groves on the hill here just above the cabin serenades us with his rich and varied music at morning and evening as well as at frequent intervals during the day. He does not appear to have any fixed or favorite singing station but he always perches high up among the oaks & sings on their topmost boughs.

1898.

June 21

(No 4)

It is time to take up the history of the young Great Horned Owl that I had of Davis. Shortly after getting him I saw Henry Lawrence who told me that he found the two young sitting side by side on the branch of a tall pine in the woods by the river. As he approached the larger one flew and he shot it breaking its wing. He did not molest the other young bird but he fired at and, as he thinks, wounded one of the parents.

I kept this young Owl in a cage in the woods near the cabin for upwards of two weeks. Like all of its kind race it was cruel and untamable ~~thoroughly~~ every one who approached it closely by swooping its bill and making quick thrusts with its formidable talons. It finally learned to tolerate Gilbert, however, and took raw meat from his fingers thankfully enough but without much actual enjoyment. At intervals of from one to five minutes during the night and occasionally by day, as well, it uttered a short, harsh, penetrating cry which was not unlike the poop of Chordeiles and which, no doubt, was merely a variation - perhaps characteristic of very young birds - of the jay-like cry that I hear very common at Ball's Workshop.

I suspect that by means of this call it finally attracted the attention of one of its parents for early one morning a number of Crows began making a great outcry in the oaks over the cage and Gilbert, who went out to investigate the cause of the disturbance found them mobbing a large Owl which sailed off through the trees as he approached.

Forest, Mass.

1898.

June 21

(No. 5)

On June 14th Gilbert, by my orders, liberated the young Owl in Prescott's pines which are within about five hundred yards of the place where it was born.

It was unable to fly and was left sitting on the ground under the trees near the wood road at the foot of the hill. During the remainder of the week Gilbert visited and fed the bird daily. It shifted its position several times and finally crossed the road by no one of these junings was more than a few rods in length and the bird was always found either on the ground or on a stump or log.

I directed my steps towards Prescott's pines this evening for the express purpose of looking up the young Owl and as I approached the place I saw something yellowish which I took to be the bird but which proved to be a sheet of brown paper. A moment later I heard some Jays screaming excitedly on the hillside about fifty yards off. Walking quietly along the path I came nearly under them and scrutinizing closely the trees around me I at length made out the form of a Great Horned Owl perched on the topmost bough of a green and vigorous young pine, sitting erect and motionless, gazing off over the woods towards the sunset as if absorbed in watching the sunset. Against the strongly lighted background of sky his figure stood out in bold relief. He was a small but fully adult male bird and no doubt the father of the two young which were reared this spring in Lawrence's woods. His coloring was very light and grayish, his "horns" unusually long and prominent. He had probably found and was caring for the young bird which Gilbert had left at the foot of the hill.

1898.

June 21

(206)

As I stood watching him, peering up through a small opening in the fern branches which concealed me very effectively, the Jays (there were but two of them and they were doubtless the pair whose nest Gilbert found a week or more ago near the place where he turned out the young Owl) attacked him repeatedly and with much spirit dashing past him within a foot or less and flitting at his head with their bills, screaming all the while, of course. He paid little attention to them but once, when one of them came over him suddenly from behind, he ducked his head nervously. At length I moved slightly and he at once discovered me fixing his great eyes on me for a moment and then flying off over the woods in the direction of Balls Bluff. Altogether it was an interesting experience to have in these covered woods. I did not see the young Owl, however.

1898.

June 22

Forenoon clear and sparkling with cool east wind.
A heavy thunder storm in the afternoon.

Walking around Ball's Hill immediately after breakfast I heard, besides many of our common summer birds, a Canadian Warbler and a Solitary brie. The Warbler was singing near the crest of the ridge behind the cabin. It had probably come from Davis's swamp where I heard one singing about two weeks ago, although it is just possible that it may be nesting in the Ball's Hill swamp (an old breeding Robin) and by some chance may have escaped my attention before this time.

The white maples along the river banks are infested with grass-green caterpillars which are fast devouring the beautiful trees of their foliage. Not content with eating ^{of the leaves} at they require the caterpillars bite off pieces, one or two inches square. The ground under the trees and the surface of the river as well as stream thickly with these fragments. Having constantly seen or heard Cuckoos (of both species but often the Yellow-bills) on the maples, one the cause landing I watched one of the birds closely to-day and found, as I had suspected, that it was ~~fast~~ feeding on the caterpillars. It obtained them by flitting or hopping from branch to branch and reaching or fluttering up to seize them from the under sides of the leaves. I saw it catch and devour six within the space of as many minutes. I doubt if we have any bird that is ^{much} more valuable as a guardian of our shade trees than Cuckoos.

1898

June 23

A rare day, clear and cool with light W. wind.

Spent the forenoon near Ball's Hill. In the afternoon crossed the river and visited Packer's where I found a small colony of Barn Swallows. There were some nests on the S. side of the house. Packer says that he counted 78 there years ago but last year during the continued heavy rains of early June most of the nests fell down & the birds left.

As I walked up through the old orchard a Bluebird was singing loudly & steadily. Later in the afternoon I heard another beyond Hannan's).

At 4 P. M. I started for Mrs. Barrett's. The sun was very hot as I crossed the fields but in the shade of the woods the temperature was delightful. Heard two Phoebe's in full song & was shown a nest in Mrs. Barrett's shed from which the young had lately flown.

Shortly after sunset a Wood Thrush began giving its sharp challenging call in some trees over the road near the house. This is the nearest to Ball's Hill that I have ever heard the bird in the breeding season but it is even nearer the Spring Hill where it breeds commonly enough.

It was eight o'clock when I left Mrs. Barrett's & started to walk home. Two Whippoorwills were singing to the westward & I afterwards heard a third in the usual place near Benson's.

As I was passing the Oak Woods near Benson's landing a superb Luna Moth came flying close past me. Its course was very erratic. It looked very large & I could distinctly make out its shape although the night was dark.

Concord, N.

1898.

June 24

Warmer than yesterday, the air less clear and dry.

Spent the morning near Bass Hill, the afternoon roaming through Mrs. Bassett's woods with Gilbert, the evening on the Blackstone ridges and Holden Hill. In the Bassett woods I stumbled on an Ovenbird's nest under some pines and a Field Sparrow's nest plainly like a Chestnut-sided Warbler or Indigo Bird's - that is to say it was placed in the fork of a hazel just under the upper canopy of foliage and fully three feet above the ground. Both nests contained four fresh eggs each.

On the lower edge of the Bassett orchard we saw a Great-crested Flycatcher, the first that I have met with this year. It flew from an apple tree into the pine woods where we drove it on ahead of us for some distance. It was absolutely silent and very tame, allowing us to get within a few yards. If it has nested in the old orchard it is singular that I have not heard it there during some one of my visits to the Partridge's nest.

As I was returning through Prescott's pines I came upon a hen Partridge which ran on ahead of me showing herself conspicuously but making no vocal sound or other peculiar demonstration. I followed her some distance into the brush without succeeding in flushing her and finally decided that she must have injured one of her wings so that she could not fly. But a few minutes later, as I was watching a Painted Bunting digging a hole for its eggs, I heard young Partridge

1898.

June 24 (Sat.) athens their feeble cheeping (tree - tree - e - e) from various parts of the Bear oak thicket where I had first seen the old bird, and presently she began answering them with a low, hen-like crow - crow - crow (always just then notes). As I could easily tell by their calls and crows the young quickly rejoined their mother when the sounds all ceased.

There can be little doubt, I think, that this particular hen Partridge had learned by experience that the old-established trick of tumbling about on the ground with beating wings and loud whining cries did not always deceive men who are accustomed to the woods. ~~into the~~ In its place she had put upon a simpler, yet really cleverer, ruse which I was completely deceived.

For the past two nights the clamor and din of Botacornis voices has been something indescribable. Bull Frogs, Green Frogs, Garden Larks and Tree Toads have been up and down, vying with each other as to which should make the loudest noise. The Green Frogs have easily carried off the palm. Their tung, tung - tung sounds at certain distances suddenly like the voices of people talking and laughing. It irritates and annoys me at times but I never tire of listening to the rich, deep bass of the Bull Frogs. They are decidedly the best specimens of the Botacornis here but fortunately a very few of them happen to fill the marshes with sound which calls against the wooded hills and echoes back again, driving the cries of all the smaller species.

1898

June 25

Clear and hot with violent S.W. wind which brought a heavy thunder storm in the early evening.

C. & S. R. S. came up by the 11 a. m. train & returned on the 4 P. m. train. It was too hot to walk fast or far but we went to Davis's Hill after dinner. Just as we stepped out of the cabin door a hen Pectoridge showed herself in the narrow fringe of bushes between the cabin & the river. At the same moment two of her chicks ran and flew off through the trees. Three others crossed the path in the wake of the mother who waddled slowly off into the woods. The young were about as large as Robins. As we kept on along the path we started the old bird three times during her round the end of the hill. After we had gone still farther away Gilbert saw her fly back past the cabin. She alighted in a maple by the river & called for some time but apparently without finding any of the young.

The frogs in the marsh across the river must be leading peculiar lives. I rarely even without starting a Bittern at two and when evening comes and the Bitterns go to bed their places are taken by two or three Night Herons from the Bedford woods. The Bittern alights unheeded the manner of a Snipe dropping suddenly at the last with a few quick flaps of its wings. When flushed it utters a croaking ok-ok-ok-ok-ok.

The Night Herons cackle vociferously over the place which they select, before alighting.

1898.

June 26

A superb day rather warm at noon but with clear day air and a refreshing W. wind that lasted late into the moonlit night.

Spent most of the forenoon at Mrs. Barrells. I am considering seriously the purchase of her whole farm with its extensive tracts of fine woodland. Many birds were singing about the house, among them a Towhee which sang most distinctly "Sweet-bird, sing" Miss Richards' version of the song as heard at Englewood. There was also an Indigo Bird, a Grosbeak, Yellow & Chestnut-sided Warblers etc.

In the afternoon Miss Maria Kyles and Miss Gage called and we walked to Holden's Hill. Several weeks ago I noticed in the large white pine that stands at the foot of the hill on the south side a nest which looked much like the nest of a Red Squirrel only it was much less deep. In other words it was a very bulky and dense Hopless mass containing few if any sticks and composed almost wholly of what looked like the reddish inner bark of the Chestnut. It was placed close against the trunk of the tree on a stout branch about 40 feet above the ground. The ground beneath was thickly sprinkled with chalky white spots of excrement evidently that of either a Hawk or an Owl. But on within the first was a subsequent visit did I see any signs of life in or about the nest. As we approached it this afternoon, however, I made out a young bird peeping over the nest. It was covered with light grayish down and its face looked

1898.

June 26

(No 2) Cross and round like that of an Owl. but a few moments later we discovered another young bird fully feathered & free from down perched on a branch several yards from the nest and this second young was evidently a Red-shouldered Hawk. I cannot understand the wide difference in appearance between it and the young bird in the nest but of course both must have belonged to the same brood. It does not seem possible that these young can have been hatched from eggs laid last April when the pair of Red-shoulders were constantly flying & perching over Holden's Hill after which they disappeared. Indeed I think it more probable that they laid their first set elsewhere and being it came back to Holden's Hill later in the season. I am glad to know that my big bird has found a safe refuge thus far for them & their brood.

The birds are fast getting the upper hand of the green caterpillars that have been devouring my white maples. Within the past few days I have seen Robins, Tanagers, Red-eyed Vireos, Cowbirds, Orioles, Red-wings and Crows feeding on them greedily. The Red-wings & Cowbirds have done the best & most constant damage. Some of the trees further up the river have fared much worse than mine & are now as bare as in winter. Miss Hayes tells me that the maples along the Anasheet have suffered the worst of all.

George Hayes picked up the skull of a Night Hawk on Ross's Hill to-day. The Crow must have brought it from the Bedford highway.

1898

Cambridge & Concord, Mass.

June 27

Clear and warm with almost no wind.

To Birch Island in the forenoon. Slood a Hairy Woodpecker in the oak woods where the Hypanis phoeniceus grows.

Spent the early part of the afternoon in packing and took the 4 P. M. train for Cambridge.

" 29

To Concord by 12.50 train from Boston. Drove to Mrs. Barrett and went over the farm with my cousin, J. L. B., deciding finally to buy it. It adds nearly ninety acres to my country.

In the Barrett orchard saw a Great-crowned T. Cypripedium, the same bird, no doubt, that I noted on my last visit. He also went to Ball's Hill. It was a fine hot afternoon and the birds were not singing at all freely.

In the main road just below Mrs. Barrett's we saw two Rabbits, both very large ones.

Glendale, Berkshire Co., Massachusetts.

1898

July 1

Clear and very warm

Left Boston by 3 P.M. train, B. & A. R. R., and reached Glendale at 10 P.M. D.C. French met me at the station and drove me to his house, about half a mile distant from the station. I found there besides Mrs. French, Mr. Henry Wells, the salmon fisher, and Mr. McDaniel the artist.

" 2

Clear and hot.

Took a long drive in the forenoon crossing the river to Stockbridge and keeping N. to the edge of Roxbury. Most of the country open farming lands or cultivated grounds and fields about gentleman's places with ranges of wooded hills extending north and south on both sides of the broad river valley. Passed through an extensive tract of pine & hemlock woods where a Hermit and two Mockingbirds were singing. Heard three House Wrens in apple orchards, two in Glendale, and near a farm house beyond.

" 3

Clear and very hot. Ther. 91° at 2 P.M., 87° at 8 P.M.

Spent most of the day at the house taking a short walk in the woods behind it just after breakfast.

" 4

Clear, the early morning very hot (ther. 87° at 7 A.M.), but a cool north wind started at 90 A.M. and the afternoon was very cool.

Spent the forenoon in the woods on the farm. In the afternoon took a long walk towards the W. and S.W. through a pine grove pasture and down along the course of a beautiful brook.

" 5

Left Glendale at 10 A.M. & reached Auburn, N.H. at 6 P.M.

1898
July 2-4

Birds noted in or near Glandale, Berkshire Co., Mass.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <u>Sialia sialis</u> - Two | 31. <u>Habia hectoriana</u> - Common |
| 2 <u>Merula mig.</u> Abundant | 32. <u>Pipilo erythroph.</u> - Two or three seen |
| 3 <u>Turdus mustelinus</u> - Very common | 33. <u>Passer domesticus</u> - Few in Haver bridge. |
| 4 " <u>pallasi</u> - Two singing | 34. <u>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</u> - Common |
| 5 " <u>fuscus</u> - " " | 35. <u>Motacilla alba</u> - Two seen |
| 6 <u>Troglodytes aedon</u> - Three " in village | 36. <u>Icterus galbula</u> - Common |
| 7 <u>Mimus carolinensis</u> - Very common | 37. " <u>opimus</u> - One singing |
| 8. <u>Harporhynchus rufus</u> - Common | 38. <u>Lonicata cinerea</u> - Two or three |
| 9 <u>Parus striatipennis</u> - Two or three | 39. <u>Corvus americanus</u> - Common |
| 10 <u>Miniotilta varia</u> - Abundant | 40. <u>Cyanocitta cristata</u> - Several |
| 11 <u>Dendroica cerulea</u> - One singing in Koburn | 41. <u>Tyrannus tyrannus</u> - Common |
| 12 " <u>blackburnii</u> - Three " at first point & thicket | 42. <u>Sayornis phoebe</u> - " |
| 13 " <u>peninsularis</u> - Several " | 43. <u>Myiozetetes similis</u> - One only |
| 14 " <u>viridis</u> - Abundant | 44. <u>Euphonia virens</u> - Common |
| 15 <u>Geothlypis trichas</u> - " | 45. <u>Contopus virens</u> - One or two |
| 16 <u>Sciurus amicabilis</u> - " | 46. <u>Colaptes auratus</u> - Several nesting |
| 17 <u>Setophaga ruticilla</u> - Common | 47. <u>Phaethon pelagicus</u> - Abundant |
| 18 <u>Vireo olivaceus</u> - Abundant | 48. <u>Arremonops mexicanus</u> - One singing |
| 19 " <u>gilvus</u> - One in village | 49. <u>Haliaeetus leucophthalmus</u> - One in. |
| 20 " <u>solicitorius</u> - Four singing | |
| 21 <u>Amphisp. cedrorum</u> - Common | |
| 22 <u>Chelidon erythrogaster</u> - " | |
| 23 <u>Progne subis</u> - Two or three | |
| 24 <u>Piranga erythromelas</u> - Very common | |
| 25 <u>Poocetes gramineus</u> - " " | |
| 26 <u>Parus carolinensis</u> - Two singing | |
| 27 <u>Melospiza fasciata</u> - Very common | |
| 28 <u>Spizella socialis</u> - " " | |
| 29 " <u>pusilla</u> - Two or three | |
| 30 <u>Passina cyanea</u> - Very common | |

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5th

Aug. 15

I came to Peterborough from Glendale on July 5th and spent the remainder of the month and the first half of August at "Bear Mire farm", going to Cambridge twice, however, for two or three days, in July. I had hoped to be in the woods a great deal but an unfortunate return of my chronic hip lameness prevented me from doing much walking and my excursions were mainly confined to the fields and woods near the house and those about the shores of Cunningham Pond to which, by the aid of an old boat, I had easy and frequent access. I also took a few drives but none of great length. Walter Dean was with me from July 18th to 25th and H. A. Purdie from July 30th to Aug. 3rd and both covered a good deal of ground that lay beyond my reach thereby adding materially to the information that I have gained respecting the bird fauna and the flora of the Peterborough region. Mr. Dean has also given me a number of notes on the birds which he has found about Jaffrey (where he has been staying the greater part of the summer) and I shall refer to some of them in what I am about to write. Jaffrey lies some five or six miles west of here at a lower elevation than that of our house but above that of Peterborough village.

During our stay at "Bear Mire farm" the weather was for the most part fine with, however, occasional rains which, almost without exception, fell during the night. The temperature has been uniformly comfortable and the air remarkably dry and bracing although the reports that have come to us from the low country tell of an unusually hot and the very worst kind of summer that we have had for many years.

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July 5 to

Aug. 15

(No 2)

Ben Mill farm (now belonging to Mr. German B. Day, a typical but unusually intelligent New England farmer) lies three miles east of the village of Petersborough and about a mile from the western base of Pack Monadnock mountain. The house (built four years ago) stands on the crest of a knoll at an elevation, it is said, of 1400 feet above the sea. Excepting towards the east, where the Pack Monadnock range rises against the sky, the view is very extended with "Grand" Monadnock lying directly to the westward some twelve miles off and the horizon line to the south and south-west from twenty to thirty miles distant.

Immediately about the house are open grassy fields divided by old stone walls fringed with trees and half-concealed by thickets of viburnums, cornels, black alders and high blueberry bushes. To the north the land slopes gently to the edge of Cunningsham Pond (about 150 yards distant); to the south and west it descends steeply into a broad, winding valley down which flows a rapid, ~~piccadilly~~ trout brook.

About one half of the country to be seen from our hill top is wooded and many of the farms which constitute the remaining half are abandoned - or at least neglected - and fast grown, up to trees or bushes. The woods are almost wholly "second growth" but many of the trees are of fair size and mostly all sturdy and vigorous-looking. *Quercus* form a much larger proportion of the trees than is often the case in Massachusetts. The woodland soil is everywhere a deep, rich, clay mould and ferns, clubmosses, trailing arbutus and other lovely plants flourish in great profusion.

Pittsburgh, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5thAug. 15th

(No. 3)

The brook valley just mentioned is at once the most attractive and the most "birdy" place that I have found in the neighborhood of our farm. It is singularly diversified, containing extensive, rich, mixed woods; rounded knolls, partly wooded and partly open, with scattered, spreading red oaks and rock maples; old pastures growing - or growing - up to young white pines, red spruces, hemlocks, birches, etc.; and - especially near the brook - picturesque stretches of primitive meadow land covered with wild grasses and spinnel^{weed} alders or dotted with tufts of ree and the graceful, clustering blossoms of the yellow lily (*L. Canadense*).

Immediately below the house, on the edge of this valley but at some distance from the brook, lies an interesting bog meadow filled with *Pogonia*, cotton grass, and various attractive wild sedges and ferns, and surrounded by dense young woods chiefly composed of white pines and red spruces growing in thick clusters with grassy or fern-capped openings between. In the openings and often intermingling with the pines and spruces are numbers of red cedars, the only ones that I have seen near Pittsburgh. Ground junipers also grow here in some profusion. Both cedars and junipers almost wholly lack this usual olive tinge the foliage being of a lighter and decidedly glaucous green.

This bog, with its encircling woods and thicket, was alive with birds and being within short ~~hunting~~ distance of the house I ~~have~~ spent many evenings there and have become, I think, pretty well acquainted with its feathered inhabitants or occasional visitors from the woods lower down along the course of the brook. The most abundant birds were Hermit Thrushes, Black & Yellow Warblers, Maryland Yellow-Throats

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1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15

(No. 4)

Song Sparrows, Field Sparrows and Towhees. There were also a few Robins, Cat Birds and Brown Thrashers and at least two male White-throated Sparrows. All of these were settled in or near the bog; and in neighboring woods, thickets or fields within easy hearing were Black-throated Green Warblers, Red-eyed Vireos, Grass Finches, Indigo Birds and Goldfinches. Among the occasional or chance visitors were Winter Wrens, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Solitary Vireos. Still more rarely a Marsh Hawk would appear through an opening among the trees and after beating the bog systematically pass over at the opposite side. On one occasion a Quail whistled for an hour or more at short, regular intervals in a field not far off. The wide-ranging Swallows, Swifts and Night hawks were, of course, often seen passing and re-passing close over the trees.

This intermingling of northern and southern birds, not often seen in such close association, at least during the breeding season, never failed to interest me and there there was the rich musical treat afforded very fine evening when the Hermit Thrushes, Peabody birds and Field Sparrows were singing freely. There were always two, often three, and occasionally four Hermits singing within hearing of one another and the best bird had an almost faultless voice. One of the Field Sparrows, also, was an exceptionally fine singer.

Petersborough, New Hampshire

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15

(No. 5)

Cunningham
Pond.

At Cunningham Pond, too, I ~~have~~ passed very many pleasant and profitable hours. At first sight it did not attract me for its shore lines are straight and angular, most of its northern side is bordered by open farming land, and its western end is disfigured by a row of cheap summer cottages; but the southern and eastern shores are as primitive and unspoiled as are the shores of Lake Umbagog.

Along the southern shore the land rises rather steeply to the crest of a ridge and the slope is everywhere densely wooded with pines, hemlocks, spruces, beeches, red and white maples, paper birches, etc. ^{a few black birches, poplars,} The spruces and hemlocks predominate and many of them are of large size. The trees not only come quite to the water's edge but many of them stretch their branches low out over the pond forming pretty bowers beneath which a boat may float in the densest shade, even at low tide. In places the water leaves the sides of large, lichen-covered boulders or washes against banks covered with rich green mosses spangled with the pretty white flowers of Saxifraga repens; in others an undergrowth of mountain holly, Vib. (Cassinoides et Coutanoides) with hawthorn, mountain ash, Cassiopea and yew, with an occasional high blueberry or striped maple, forms a solid wall of foliage forming the outer light and completely filling in the vertical space between the ground or water and the lower branches of the trees. A week ago the mountain holly bushes were thickly studded with crimson berries but these are now, ^(Aug. 10th 1898) falling fast or else the birds are eating them. I doubt if it can be the birds for they seem to avoid these woods. Indeed I have found there only a Wood Thrush, a family of Robins & one or two Red-eyed Vireos.

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1898.

July 5thAug. 15th

(No. 6)

CumingtonPond

But at the head or eastern end of the pond, in a grove of hemlocks and spruces, quite open or free from undergrowth beneath, as well as in a brush-grown pasture that borders a pretty little cove where the arrow-shaped leaves and blue flower spikes of the prickly weed rise thickly from the shallow water, the bird life was almost as abundant and varied as about the bog on the main farm and at evening, when the conditions were favorable, the air fairly rang with the songs of Hermit Thrushes, Peewee birds, Towhees, Field Sparrows, Song Sparrows etc. Evidently spruce woods and old pastures growing up to pines and spruces form the favorite haunts for most of the smaller birds of this region. The mixed woods of old growth are everywhere nearly barren of bird life.

Early in July I heard two Green Herons calling in some maples on the shores of the pond and on August 2nd Purdin and I found a Great Blue Heron at the head of the little cove, standing in the water among the prickly weed, apparently watching for fish as his attention was so concentrated on the bottom that he did not notice us until we paddled nearly within gun shot. Ducks are said to alight in this pond in spring & autumn. I have no doubt that a Kingfisher, which flew past our house one day, was on his way there. Mergansers are numerous and I have seen a few Pintails on floating logs. Mall Flogs & Green Flogs make the shores echo with their trumping and trumping.

Of aquatic plants the pond contains, besides the prickly weed, the floating heart, the cow lily & the dwarf white pond lily / one minor / . Pike, pickerel, sun fish & horned pouts are caught there but the fishing is poor to day, as has been on August 1st & 2nd.

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1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15
(No. 7)

There but the pickered, strange to say, are never caught (or were seen) escaping through the ice in winter. That because of them in summer is a mystery. They cannot leave the pond at any season for there is no inlet and there is a dam across the hollow outlet.

Cunningham
Pond.

I should have noted before that this pond is said to cover a surface of about fifty acres. The water is clear and uniform of very great depth.

Still another excellent place for birds is at the head of the broad valley where the old stage road passes the base of Pack Monadnock through a gap between the range of hills that bound our view to the eastward. Here there are more open-ground pastures as well as some extensive and rather scrubby mixed woods ~~covering~~ covering the rocky sides of the mountain and here I found Hermits, White-throats, Kinglets, Magnolia, Nighthawks & Hawks and Golden-crowns, as well as most of the other species which occur on or near Beech Lake farm but nothing that was not noted there. Nor did Mr. Deane add anything to our list when he drove to the top of Pack Monadnock (said to be 2400 feet above the sea) on July 24th but along the whole extent of its base and gently ascending crest he found Junco in abundance. He also saw Robins and Grass Finches ~~there~~ near the summit.

Pack
Monadnock

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15
(No. 8).

Trees &
Shrubs

Although in connection with other subjects I have already mentioned most of the trees and shrubs which I have noticed in this region it may be worth while to note more definitely the respective distribution and relative abundance of the different species.

The white pine, the hemlock, the birch, the red oak (apparently the only Quercus), the paper, yellow and gray birches, the rock and red maples, the white ash, the sumcherry and the chokecherry are all abundant and very generally distributed. The red spruce occurs only sparingly in mixed woods but it springs up in dense thickets in many of the neglected pastures especially those which lie along the slopes of the Pade Monadnock range of hills. Some of the older trees are tall with straight, clear stems suitable for timber.

The striped maple, the mountain ash, the hucklebush and the yew are common but nowhere very numerous; the red cedar and ground juniper appear to be confined to Bear Mear farm and I have seen the red pine only in a pasture near Conningham Pond where there are a few trees of fair size; the hop hornbeam seems to be also uncommon and the balsam fir is apparently rare for, with the exception of those growing near houses and evidently planted, we have found only a single small specimen near Bear Mear farm and less than a dozen were seen by me. None on the summit of Pade Monadnock. The alder vitae and mountain laurel are said to be wholly absent and, so far as I know, we have found no huckleberry although these hilly pastures seem admirably adapted to it (after this was written I found a little near Conningham). Of course there are numerous (Carex sp. et distichum)

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1898

July 5 to

Aug. 15

(No. 9)

cornels, high and low blueberries, black alders, alders, etc. in the usual profusion and *Rhodora* is especially abundant growing in differently on low and high ground in the swamps, throughout the pastures and in many places along the roadsides. The mountain holly is almost equally common and widespread.

Of the more lovely plants, which carpet the ground under the trees, the painted and the purple bellwines, the trailing arbutus, *Dicentra repens* and the club mosses have often attracted my attention for they were rarely forgotten.

Pines also grow in great beauty and profusion but there are fewer species than I had expected to find.

In connection with the list of trees I should have mentioned the bass-wood, which is rather common, and the chestnut, of which a fine old specimen, apparently indigenous and the only one seen by us or known to Mr. Day, stands on the crest of a knoll in the valley below our house. On the eastern slope of the ~~Pink~~ Monadnock ridge, however, the chestnut is said to be abundant as is, also, the mountain cedar.

I should have noted, also, that the paper and the gray birch are about equally abundant and that they are often to be seen growing together. Mr. Day says that the black birch occurs sparingly but I have not seen it. I afterward found a few tall black birches at Cunningham Pond growing on a northern slope among paper birch & ~~white~~ ^{red} birch species.

Tree &Shrub

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1898.

July 5thAug. 15th

(Nov. 10)

The bird fauna, as already indicated, contains an interesting mixture of forms supposed to be more or less typical, especially, of the Alleghenian (or Laurentian) and the Canadian faunas. Thus the Red-winged Blackbird, Cowbird, Field Sparrow and Towhee are all abundant and found in close association with the equally numerous Hermit Wren, Golden-crested Kinglet and Black & Yellow Warblers while the Wood Thrush (only one specimen seen), the Baltimore Oriole (not common), and the Lark (~~sp.~~), may be met with in the same localities as the Winter Wren (not common), the White-throated Sparrow (generally but sparingly distributed), the Junco (uncommon excepting on the ~~more~~ higher ridges) and the Myrtle Warbler (not numerous). Swainson's Thrush occurs abundantly on Monadnock (see Abbott Hoag), but not, apparently, at all at lower levels. The Canada Nuthatch, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Canadian Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher may be looked for here with some confidence for I found them all at Wrentham, Mass., in June 18.

Said in respect to the apparent absence of the four species lost toward the summer bird life of the Pittsborough region is essentially the same as that of Wrentham but I do not remember (I am writing today from memory) seeing at the latter place anything like the numbers of Field Sparrows, Towhees and Indigo Birds which have been present here this season. Another point of apparent difference is that the Black-chinned Warbler was one of the most abundant of the woodland birds at Wrentham whereas only one specimen has been noted here (Mr. Deane has seen two or three at Jaffrey).

I have looked here in vain for the Wilson's Thrush (abundant at Jaffrey - Deane), Yellow Warbler, Savannah Sparrow,

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July 5th

Aug. 15.

(No. 11)

Henslow's Sparrow (abundant at Princeton, Mass 2 1/2 miles S. of here)
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (several seen at Jaffrey by N. Dean), Swamp
 Sparrow (ds.) House Wren (one at Jaffrey - Dean, Warbling
 Vireo (ds.), Heron - behind Woodfeller, Gail's & Lyette's,
 and Whippoorwill (abundant at Jaffrey - Dean - and said
 by Mr. Day to be occasionally found here).

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1898.

July 5th

Aug. 15.

(No. 12)

The Brown Thrasher had ceased singing before my arrival and I heard the Bluebird warble but once - on July 17th. The least Flycatcher was silent after July 7th, the Redstart after the 12th, the Nighthawk and Flicker after the 17th.

With these exceptions all the birds sang repeatedly and more or less freely up to July 20th. After this they dropped out in rapid succession in the following order:

July 20. - Chestnut-sided Warbler, Chickadee, Kinglet (Towhee), Chipping, Phoebe.

July 21. - Robin, Nashville Warbler, Myrtle Warbler.

" 24. - Colaptes, Black-throated Green Warbler, Junco.

" 25. - Cross Finch, Scarlet Tanager (heard only on this date)

" 29. - White-throated Sparrow.

" 30. - Black & Yellow Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, Oven-bird.

August 2. - Red-eyed Vireo

" 3. - Solitary Vireo, Field Sparrow, Hermit Thrush

" 8. - Indigo Bird.

The dates given are those up to and including which the species sang regularly and vigorously. The Robin, the Nashville, Myrtle, Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Green Warblers, the Cross Finch and the White-throated Sparrows ceased very abruptly and - with the exception of the Cross Finch - absolutely. But some of the others, especially the Chickadee, Chipping Sparrow, and Indigo Bird, sang occasionally or sporadically in the early morning or during rainy weather. The Hermit Thrush was silent on August 4th 5th & 6th but I heard one singing steadily on the evenings of the 7th & 8th. On the morning of the 9th, which was very cloudy & rather cool after a rainy night, I heard at about a shortly after sunrise the first songs of two Song Sparrows, ^{a Field Sparrow,} a Chickadee, a Red-eyed Vireo and a Phoebe; at 10 a.m. a Towhee began singing at about regular intervals.

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1898.

July 5th to

Aug. 15.

(No. 13)

On July 23rd I found a mixed flock containing, besides a number of Chickadees and Kinglets, several young ^{nestlings} Chestnut-sided, Black & Yellow and Black-throated Green Warblers all of which were in full continued plumage. Their mothers were no doubt present in the vicinity but where were their parents? I looked the flock over very carefully and under saw that it included no adults of any of the Warblers just named. This and other considerations lead me to believe that prior to this date at least some of the old birds had already departed northward.

Migration

The first unmistakable evidence of migration occurred, however, on the evening of July 29th when I heard Upland Plover passing over at 8.30 and again at 10 P.M. and a Warbler of some kind at 9 P.M. The night was foggy and warm.

The next flight occurred on the night of August 2nd when the weather was clear, still and very warm with a full moon. Upland Plover were heard at 8, 9 and 10 P.M. (as well as just before day light the next morning). From 8 to 10 P.M. Warblers were migrating in great numbers their looping calls being heard every few minutes. I could detect no northern birds and no exceptions to the number of our local birds the next day but on the contrary, there was an apparent diminution in the number of the local birds. From this I infer that the flight did not come from far to the northward but simply cleared the local flocks.

On August 6th, a clear, warm night, a few Warblers were heard passing overhead between 8.30 and 9 P.M.

On August 9th Warblers in considerable numbers were migrating from 9.30 to 10.30 P.M. The night was cloudy & calm.

August 10th to 16th. Warblers heard in small numbers almost every night, but considerable flight during this period.

New Milford, Peterborough, N. H.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug 15.

(No. 14)

As nearly as I can learn by questioning the sportsmen and farmers the Black Bear ceased to exist in or near to visit this region many years ago. Deer were abundant for half a century or more but they returned there 11 years ago and are now not uncommon. Foxes and Raccoons are very numerous as are also Porcupines and Woodchucks. The Northern Hare and the Gray "Rabbit" are about equally numerous but the former is confined to the swamps and wet holes along the brooks while the latter occupies the higher grounds. A few Otters are still said to linger in Contoosook River and Muskrats and Weasels are common in the brooks & in Cassingham Pond. The Gray Squirrel is found in considerable numbers and the Red & Chipmunk Squirrels are of course abundant. The Black Rat swarms in Mr. Day's buildings and is said to be the only Rat that occurs in this neighborhood.

Mammals

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15

(No. 15)

Scalia bialis.— Several broods of young with their parents seen at different places in fields or pastures. A male in full song July 17th, another working feebly August 9th.

Merula migratoria.— Abundant up to July 20th. But after that date seen only occasionally and in small numbers. In full song up to July 21st and heard singing feebly on the 24th, after which all singing ceased.

Turdus mustelinus.— One in mixed spruce and hemlock woods on the shores of Cunningham Pond, August 2. It acted as if it had young following us about and uttering the sharp challenge cry incessantly. Nevertheless it may have been a migrant for I visited the place many times after word without finding the bird again.

Turdus pallasi.— If the Hermit Thrushes of this region suffered serious losses in the South during the terrible winter of a few years ago (their numbers have been since very materially diminished in most parts of New England) they must have recovered very rapidly for I have never seen them more abundant than they have been this season. During July they were singing almost everywhere and in white pine woods and old pastures growing up to pines and spruces one might often hear two or three and sometimes even four males at once. They were in full song up to and including August 2, when

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July 5 to

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(No. 16)

They ceased very abruptly and generally although I heard a bird singing continuously on the evening of August 6th and another at the same hour on the following evening. During July they sang more or less freely through the day when the weather was cloudy or cool, but when it was clear and warm they were ordinarily silent except in the early morning and at evening.

I noticed that at evening, after finishing singing, they repeatedly called to one another for several minutes before going to sleep, using chiefly the low, whining, Cooey-like c-c-c-c-c but also giving, not infrequently, the clear, whistling note which they use when migrating at night.

Haerporus rufus. - Very common, especially in thickets along the roadsides and in brush-grown pastures. Silent during my whole stay.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis. - Abundant in thickets near the shores of Cunningham Pond and often seen elsewhere along brush-bordered roads. Heard in full song July 6, 20, 23 & 24.

Troglodytes hyemalis. - W. Deane found two males in full song, July 24, in deep woods near the brook on Ben Meier farm. Afterwards - on July 29th - I heard what was probably one of these birds singing in the bog near the house.

Sitta carolinensis. - Frequently heard calling near the house on Ben Meier farm through July & the first week of August. Also heard at the Howards' July 29.

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1898.

July 5th toAug. 15th.

(No. 17)

Parus atricapillus. - Common. Song (blue) heard July 14 & 20 and Aug. 27th. A nest containing young about ready to fly found Aug. 9th. The hole was near the top of a pile that formed one of the outer supports of the new way of the iron bridge at Cunningham Pond and was fully 15 feet above the water.

Regulus satrapa. - Abundant in spruce grown pastures and mixed spruce & hemlock woods (See Mearns farm, Cunningham Pond and base of Pack Monadnock). Heard singing July 6, 18 & 20. A brood of eight or nine young in company with Chickadees & Kinglets seen within July 23rd.

Mniotilta varia. - Common. Young on wing July 7.

Helminthophila ruficapilla. - Abundant and very generally distributed but seen oftener in spruce-grown pastures and thickets bordering woodlands or second growth woods. Previous experience has led me to believe that this species, like H. chrysopetra, does not sing often or freely after the close of June but here it continued in full song up to July 21st when I heard it for the last time (July 7th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 19th, 20th, 21st). On July 23rd I found two young which had nearly completed their autumnal plumage.

Dendroica coronata. - Found sparingly in spruce, hemlock, and white pine woods. Ceased singing July 21st (July 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st).

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July 5 to
Aug. 15.
(No. 18)

Dendroica pensylvanica. - Common in thickets bordering woods,
open woods, roadsides and brooks. Silent after
July 20th (July 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 17th, 20th).
Has young birds, seen July 23rd in a mixed flock
of Titmice, Kinglets & Nuthatches, were in full autumnal
plumage.

" Blackburnian. - It would be indeed strange if this
species is not at least fairly common here but
the only individual noted was an adult ♂ seen
by Mr. Deane, July 19, in pasture Mowers on
Bear Mere farm.

" maculosa. - Abundant, frequenting open grassy pastures
(Bear Mere farm) and open and hardwood woods
(Livingston Pond & Area of Park Menadocensis). As
the day nears our house I frequently heard them and
occasionally from woods singing at once. The usual
forms of song here are wittly-wittly-wittly, wittly-wittly
wittly-wittly or wittly-wittly-wittly, song in full
autumnal plumage seen July 23rd. The old males
continued in full song up to July 30th and I heard
one on August 2nd (July 7th, 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st,
24th, 25th, 30th, August 2nd).

" virans. - Common in white pine, hardwood & spruce woods.
Singing recorded July 11th, 12th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st,
23rd, 24th. Song in full autumnal plumage, July 23rd.

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July 5 to
Aug. 15.
(No. 19)

Geothlypis trichas. — Very common in moist thickets in brook meadows and about the shores of ponds and not at all uncommon among bushes bordering stone walls and roadsides on high and perfectly dry ground. The singing record is as follows: July 17 $\frac{1}{2}$, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$, 19 $\frac{3}{4}$, 20 $\frac{3}{4}$, 21 $\frac{3}{4}$, 23 $\frac{1}{2}$, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$, 30 $\frac{1}{2}$. August 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Sitta americana. — Common in mixed woods and white pine groves. In full song up to July 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ (July 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$, 20 $\frac{3}{4}$, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$, 29 $\frac{1}{2}$, 30 $\frac{1}{2}$).

Setophaga ruticilla. — Several pairs found in maple and birch woods at the east end of Cunningham Pond but none noticed elsewhere. Not heard singing after July 12th.

Vireo olivaceus. — Probably the most abundant of the smaller birds and of practically universal distribution but most numerous in mixed woods and old pastures growing up to birches and maples. In full song everywhere up to (and including) August 2nd but on the 3rd & 4th, although the weather continued fine, I did not hear a single bird. It was as if an edict had gone forth declaring absolute silence of the entire region on those days. Afterward there was occasional singing as the following record will show: August 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ (singing for about three or four minutes), 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ (singing rather steadily at intervals from 6 to 10 a. m.) 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ (in full song much of the time from 6 to 9 a. m.) 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (early morning), 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ (do)

Vireo solitarius. — Found only in deep woods near the brook on Ben More farm where two birds were singing near together July 24 and one was heard on July 23, 25, 28 & 29 and on August 1, 2 & 3.

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Petersborough, New Hampshire.

July 5 to
Aug. 15.
(No. 20)

Progne subis. - Two or three seen flying over the village
July 25th & 28th. Also heard calling at
New Wm farm August 1st.

Petrochelidon lunifrons. - From one or two to five or six were
seen almost daily on New Wm farm from July 15th
to 31. Early in August some good-sized flocks
appeared there associating with the New Swallows
& perching on telegraph wires. (August 1st 20, 2nd 40,
3rd 20, 12 heard).

Tachycineta bicolor. - Two perching on the roof of the barn
at New Wm farm July 22. The species doubtless
breeds in the stubs about Long Pond (E. Joffrey)
for a dozen or more were seen there July 5.

Chelidon erythrogaster. - Abundant. Nearly every suitable Open
having its colony of breeding birds. There were
eight nests in the barn & one under a shed, on
New Wm farm. On Aug. 5th three of the broods
had flown, on the 11th only one brood remained
in the nest. Flocking began July 20, old & young
birds collecting in long lines on telegraph wires.
(July 20 20, 21 30, 24 30, 28 30, 29 30, 30 20. Aug. 1 20,
2 20, 3 30, 6 20, 7 30, 8 10.) The song writer was
heard constantly through July & up to Aug. 15th.

Chondestes riparia. - Five or six fresh. Looking nesting holes
in a sandbank near the village but no
birds went in. Dean saw a few at Joffrey.

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1898.

July 5thAug. 15th.

(No. 21)

Ampelis cedrorum. - From two or three to six or eight seen daily. On July 20th upwards of thirty were noted at Cavanaugh Pond where the attraction seemed to be dead black berries on which the birds were feeding greedily.

Perisoreus erythronotus. - Only one noted - a male in full song for an hour or more within hearing of the house on Bear Mice farm. (Surreal was observed on Joffrey by W. Dean).

Calpodacus purpureus. - Apparently uncommon, an old male in full song July 6th and one or two females or young seen in the same place (near the house on Bear Mice farm) July 8, 10, 12 & 18 and Aug. 9, being all that were met with.

Spinus tristis. - Very common and generally distributed.

Although several pairs of birds were evidently breeding near the house and constantly under observation I heard the full song only a few times during my stay (July 18th, 20th, 30th, Aug. 4th, 6th).

I have satisfied myself this season that Mr. Dean is correct in his contention (of Osprey, Nov. 1897) that the summer flight call of the Goldfinch (i.e. the pre-chorus) invariably begins just as the bird opens its wings after passing ^{under or slightly} the lower part of its crown. It ends invariably with the completion of the upward curve. In other words the downswung hump is always performed in flight. That is the meaning, by the way, of this galloping flight

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5th (Spirurus tristis) with its accompanying perchicorix* call? *I should
 Aug. 15. It appears to be peculiar to the ♂ and to be performed under this
 (No. 22) only in the breeding season; yet the true song and the call
 birds' manner of flight when singing, are wholly different. hee-chi-
chee-chee

Poicetes gramineus. - Throughout this region the proper specimens
 appear to have the upland mowing fields
 wholly to themselves and everywhere they are
 abundant. The record of singing is as follows:
 July 5th to 13th (2 or 3 daily) 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 24th
 25th August 8th (all song over at summer). The birds noted on
 the 24th were found by Mr. Deane near the
 Summit of Rock Monadnock.

Turdus hyemalis. - My record for the region lying about
 Bear Mesa from July 7th (Cunningham Pond) 20th (see),
 first plumage (in field near our house), 21st (Cunningham
 Pond) 23rd (valley below house) indicates that
 the Turdus is not common at the middle or
 lower levels but on July 24th ^{Mr. Deane} found it in
 great abundance along the base east of
 Rock Monadnock, hearing them, he felt sure,
 the songs of at least a dozen different birds.

Spirurus bicolor. - Common about farming lands & houses.
 Vigorous and general singing ceased about
 July 20th but there was occasional ~~utterance~~
 a listless singing for two weeks or more after this.
 July 18th 19th 20th 30th August 1st (at summer),
 August 3rd (summer) 5th (do.) 8th (do.) 9th (do.) 10th (do.)

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15.
(No. 23)

Spirilla pusilla. - Quite as numerous here as at Belmont & Arlington, Mass. and decidedly more numerous there about Concord, Mass., frequenting chiefly the shrubbery along roadsides and old walls and neglected portions growing up to farms, houses etc. Some of these Peterborough birds are remarkably fine singers. One at the boy's house on horse frequently gives two ~~and sometimes~~ trills on different keys, the second lower than the first. Occasionally he adds a third trill on the same key as the first running the three together. The chirp of pusilla is a little louder & fuller than those of socialis.

Melospiza fasciata. - Generally distributed without regard to altitude and nearly everywhere the most commonly represented of the Fringillidae. In full song up to July 24th after which my record is as follows: - July 28th, 29th, 31st, August 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th (once only, at sunrise), 8th (sunrise), 9th (early morning), 10th (in full song from sunrise to 5 A.M.)

All the birds of this region (including those on the top of Pease Mountain according to W. Deane) have a peculiar, abrupt way of ending their songs. With most of them the song ends with a guttural wet-wet but sometimes it is nearly cut short before the usual termination is reached. Their voices, however, seem to me unusually clear and sweet.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15.

(No. 24)

Zonotrichia albicollis.— Two males sang through July at the bog just below our house, a third at Cunningham Pond and a fourth at the base of Back Mountain. There were all that I met with. They continued in full song up to (and including) July 29th after which they maintained absolute silence.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus.— Excepting on Masthead Mountain I have never seen the Towhee so numerous as it has been this season about Peterborough. Its favorite haunts here are the neglected pastures where white pines, red spruces, hemlocks and gray a paper birches are springing up in dense clusters or thickets interspersed with openings filled with high blanding brooms. but it is also common along wood edges and brush-grown roadsides. In many places in the pastures I have had two or even three males in sight at once preened on the topmost sprays of young pines or hemlocks, singing in apparent response to one another. The forms of song oftenest heard here are seet-bril, té-té-té-té-té-té-té-té and Ker-chee, chi-i-i-i-i-i. The best rendering of the call note has seemed to me on careful study to be ker-wá given in shrill yet somewhat guttural and very quavering tones the second syllable strongly accented and ending with a rising inflection as if the bird was asking a question.

I think the Towhee must be "two-brooded" for although I saw numbers of young on wing July 11th & shortly afterwards the old males continued in full song unintermittent through July. My record of August

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5th (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) singing is as follows: Aug. 1st,
 Aug. 15th. 2nd 5th 9th (in full, continued song from 9 to
 (No. 20) 9.15 a.m. weather cloudy & misty at the time).

Passerina cyanea. - Abundant, frequenting chiefly thickets of low

bushes along stone walls, roadsides and the border of woods. The males frequently perched and sang on the telegraph wires along the road to the village. They continued in full song up ¹⁷August 8th (later than any other bird found here) but after the close of July their songs, although losing nothing in vigor & sweetness, were heard less frequently and chiefly in the early morning or at evening. My first record is:-

July 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 18th 19th 20th 21st 24th 28th

30th 31st August 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th (sang only once, at sundown)

10th (sang once, briefly & feebly, at sundown) 12th (first song, 2nd 14th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 24th 28th 30th 31st)

The song of the Indigo Bird, like that of the Phoebe, has a peculiar quality of hoarse sweetness. (*Metallus* sweetens would be perhaps a better taken in the case of the Indigo). At its best it is one of the sweetest as well as most technically perfect songs that I know. The finer songs seem to have studied their themes with the greatest care for every note is distinctly articulated and nicely inflected yet there is no trace of effort or self-consciousness in the smoothly flowing yet intricate strain. The inferior songs, however, shriller & hesitant & desultory. I have observed that they are usually in immature (i.e. downy-mottled) plumage. The Indigo Bird ^{then} does any other of our birds. I saw broods of young Indigo birds as early as July 12th. They were always accompanied by both parents.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15.

(No. 26)

Passer domesticus. Confined to the village where it was
not numerous the greatest number seen by me
on any one visit being less than a dozen.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. Mr. Dagg says that the Bolonik is
seen here regularly in spring arriving about May 18th.
He thinks a few pairs breed. A flock of about
25 (including several old males still in black & buff)
were seen by Mr. Dagg about half-way between our
house & the village on July 21. Later (on July
22 and again on August 10) I heard the chirp
note out from near farm. Also on Aug. 14, 15

Agelaius phoeniceus. Apparently rare here as, in fact, it is
in most of the elevated, interior parts of New England.
The only bird seen by me was an adult ♂ flying
over the Contoocook River near Morris Station (South
Peterborough), July 27. Mr. Dagg met with a female
accompanied by three young at Long Pond, S. Jeffery.
His style of water is admirably adapted to the
Red-wing's habits than hundreds of the birds would
be breeding there were it near the coast.

Icterus galbula. A brood of young heard calling at intervals
near our house on July 12th. On August 2 a
single bird was seen by Mr. Preslin.

Corvus americanus. Common but less numerous than in
Eastern Massachusetts. Frequently seen feeding in
the woods, apparently feeding on bark in summer.

Peterborough, New Hampshire

1898.

July 5 to

Aug. 15.

(No. 27)

Cyanocitta cristata. - Either uncommon or remarkably silent and retiring through July but seen and heard frequently in August. (Mr. Deane reports them abundant and very noisy in July at Joffrey.)

Tyrannus tyrannus. - Common and very generally distributed throughout the open farming lands. But less numerous, I should say, than in Eastern Massachusetts.

Sayornis phoebe. - More numerous than I have ever seen them elsewhere in New England. In full song July 20th and 24th; singing feebly July 30th; full song repeated several times at Amherst on August 2nd.

Contopus virens. - Mr. Deane is positive that he saw two birds here, one near the brook on Deer Meadow, the other lower down the valley. I did not come within it.

Empidonax minimus. - A few old and young birds, all possibly members of one family, seen or heard in maple & birch woods at the W. end of Cunningham Pond. Full song heard July 6 & 7, feebly singing July 20.

Copelains plicatus. - Mitten holes and fresh chips, unquestionably the work of the hog creek seen by us in spruce woods at the base of Park Mountain. Mr. Deane also noticed similar signs at Joffrey where, moreover, a farmer assured him that he had seen one of the birds early last spring.

Petersborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15.

(No. 28)

Colaptes auratus. - Common. Heard "shouting" July 4, 8, 17
and 22.Dryobates villosus. - One in mixed woods near the Cross
on Bear River farm August 11th." pubescens. - Two seen July 11th, one August 1, and
one August 9th.Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. - Not uncommon. First song-call
heard frequently through July and on August 5th,
7th and 10th.Antrostomus vociferans. - Although the Whippoorwill was not
met with here this season I do not hesitate to
include it on the authority of one former host
Mr. Day who assures me that he has often heard
it on Bear River farm in former summers.
It was so abundant at Jaffrey in July of this
year that Mr. Dean often heard four or five
and on one occasion two birds, singing in
a high voice.Ceryle alcyon. - One flew past our house, calling hoarsely, on
July 30th. It was apparently on its way to
Cunningham Pond.Chordeiles virginianus. - The following record includes all the
birds seen or heard by me here: - July 5th 6th 7th 17th
20th 21st August 2nd 7th 10th 14th ^{after hours} 15th.
(Abundant at Jaffrey where it "boomed" as late as)

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5th

Aug. 15.

(No. 29)

Chaetura pelagica. - A pair nesting in the chimney of the old farm house here and others seen almost every evening (as well as during cloudy days), flying about over the fields & woods. The species, however, is evidently much less numerous about Peterborough than at most localities in New England.

Trachurus columbi. - One seen July 7th, another on the 9th, and a third on the 13th, all about Epilobium blossoms.

Buteo latissimus. - A pair of adult birds, seen in mixed woods near the brook on the Wren farm, by Mr. Deane, July 24th. He had a good view of one of them & heard it utter the Killdeer cry. He also reports seeing others at Jeffrey.

Accipiter velox. - On July 17th I saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk flying swiftly past our house pursued by a mob of excited Barn Swallows which repeatedly circled it and apparently stung at its head from above.

Bonasa. - I started an old cock Partridge, July 11th, and heard another drumming at short, regular intervals just before sunset on the evening of August 2nd. A local sportsman tells me that it is by no means unusual to start fifty or even seventy-five birds in a single day in autumn. Whether the form found here is umbellata or tozota I have, at present, no means of determining.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15.
(No. 30)

Colinus virginianus. - On the afternoon of July 11th I was surprised to hear the bob-white of a bird coming from a field near the house. The bird continued whistling at intervals for half-an-hour or more. My sportsman friend (who lives near at hand) also heard it and was equally surprised for, as he afterwards assured me, the bird is of very rare occurrence here although not uncommon (he says) about Concord, New Hampshire.

Phalaropus minor. - My sportsman (a carpenter, by the name of Shattuck) further informs me that the Woodcock breeds here regularly in limited numbers and that a good many birds are killed every autumn in flight over. I think I heard one whistle past the house on the evening of August 3rd.

Actitis macularia. - On my arrival I found a Spotted Sandpiper, that evidently had either eggs or young, in a field that had been laid down to grain near the house. Whenever one little sparrow crossed this field the Sandpiper would circle low around him calling peep incessantly in anxious tones and occasionally alighting on a few paces. I saw the bird last on July 20th.

Bartramia longicauda. - Heard migrating on the night of July 29th (warm and dusky heavy) at 8.30 and 10 P.M. on the night of August 2nd (clear & very warm with a good wind) at 8, 9 & 10 P.M., and on the morning of August 3rd at day break.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5 to
Aug. 15.
(No. 31)

Ardea herodias. -- On the afternoon of August 2nd a Great Blue Heron passed high over our house coming from the south-west and flying in the direction of Cunningham Pond. As he came later we found what was no doubt the same bird standing in the shallow water near shore at the head of the pond. He was a fine large bird in full adult plumage.

" versicolor. -- Two at Cunningham Pond on July 7, flying about and alighting in the maples, calling to one another. One also seen at Long Pond, E. Joffrey, July 25 and one in the same place July 27.

Buteo borealis. -- A large female soaring over a pasture at base of Rock Mountain, Aug. 14th.

Circus hudsonius. -- An adult ♂ seen staining the fields on the river farm

Peterborough, New Hampshire.



Peterborough, New Hampshire.

Rutland, New Hampshire.



Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1898.

Aug. 18

Clear and pretty. Ther. 82° at noon.

I returned to Cambridge yesterday afternoon to prepare for my annual trip to Umbagog. At sunrise this morning I heard a Redstart, a Yellow-Throated Vireo, and a Baltimore Oriole sing a few times in loud, clear tones. Three Red-eyed Vireos were in full song for half an hour or more. I was greatly surprised to hear so many near the house. Later in the day a Goldfinch sang at intervals.

The summer has been hot and wet and vegetation has made a rank growth in the old garden. Humming birds are numerous about the flower beds and I hear a Water Thrush chirping in the jungle. There were also two or three Robins and a Brown Towhee this forenoon. The House Sparrows appear to be rather less numerous than usual.

So far summer the garden was infested by House Wren. A large Norway Rat is living there now. Hence it appears that the cat-proof fence is not without its drawbacks. Not a single cat has been seen in the garden this season.

At sunset several Swifts were flying over the garden and later I heard the chirp of a Night Heron following the old-wine path to the Charles River meadows which the steam dredges are now fast destroying.

Bethel, Maine.

1898.

August 21 A pretty day, cloudy for the most part, with frequent showers and occasional bursts of sunshine.

Left Boston yesterday morning at 9 a. m. and reached Bethel at 4.30 P. M. Traveling all the way by rail.

Dr. Gehring was on at the station and drove me to his home where I am to stay until to-morrow.

We spent the greater part of to-day sitting on the piazza watching about the grounds near the house looking at the Doctor's interesting collection of flowers. There were a good many common birds about, Goldfinches, Chipping, two Phoebe's, Song Sparrows, several Hummingbirds etc. A Red-eyed Vireo sang lustily at intervals in the early forenoon. Robins were also heard chucking a down time or more between 9 and 11 a. m. I think they were passing overhead & probably migrating. Gilbert saw four Baltimore Orioles, two in one place, then in another.

Small
birds

Night closed in dark and showery but by half-past eight the stars were out & I think, remained so most of the time until morning. As soon as it had become fairly dark I began to hear the chirping calls of migrating Woodpeckers and very few minutes the flight call of a Wren's Thrush. This continued up to the time I went to bed (11 P. M.) and after waked, whenever I was awake, I heard ~~these~~ both calls through my open windows. Rarely if ever I have known such a ~~thunderous~~ "keck" lasting through an entire night. During most of the time when I was listening the calls came at intervals of only a few seconds and often from three or four points at once.

Heavy
nocturnal
migration

From Bethel to Lakeside.

1898.

August 22

A sunny, very warm and pretty day with dense, hazy haze.

Bobolinks were migrating in numbers this morning. I heard them at frequent intervals as I sat on the piazza and once I saw two flying together rather high.

Bobolinks
migrating in
numbers

At noon Gilbert and I started for the lake in Davis's stage. The roads were in good condition and we had a very pleasant and interesting drive. Golden rod, asters and Eupatorium were in full bloom everywhere along the roadsides. The trees for the most part were as green as in midsummer but I noticed a few rock maples that had begun to turn yellowish. For the entire distance the country is unchanged since last year. In fact scarce a tree was missing. Heaven knows the march of modern "improvement" has not touched this region as yet.

We saw a great many birds. Song Sparrows & ~~Robin-throats~~ Small in the various thickets; Grass Finches and Savannah Sparrows in the grassy fields; clouds of Chipping Sparrows rising from weedy places as the stage rattled by; a Wood Pewee in an apple orchard; two families of Bluebirds, one of them the other of four birds, in Newry; several smaller flocks of Kingbirds; three Robins; several Cedar birds; one flock of eight, another of twelve, Night Hawks zig-zagging about, feeding, over the meadow flat in Grafton; a flock of fully fifty Barn Swallows over the same meadow; Barn Swallows everywhere in small parties or singly & one pair feeding young still in the nest; eight or ten Crows; a few Chimney Swifts; a Hummingbird; and last but not least a fine female Duck Hawk circling over the woods about a mile north of Grafton. Reached Lakeside at about seven o'clock.

Night Hawks
Barn Swallows

Duck Hawk

1898

August 23

Pine Point.

Cloudy and warm with light south-east wind and occasional showers.

We took the steamer up the Lake this morning reaching Pine Point at about nine o'clock. There were five birds - two or three Ospreys, one Eagle, a Loon, and a Northern Phalarope being the most interesting ones seen during the trip.

The Phalarope was sitting on the water off Black Island. It flew as the steamer approached and went back off one the Lake with the usual erratic flight.

Northern
Phalarope.

Spent the remainder of the day putting things in order at the camp and working on the canoes. There were a good many warblers & other small birds on the woods on the point but I had no opportunity to investigate them closely. Heard a Red-eye singing freely and a Boy called "Honey". Several Eagles & Ospreys flying about and a Loon calling in the distance. Over a flock of White-winged Crossbills flew overhead, chattering. There were also a Great Green Heron and two Kingfishers flying about the cove.

White-wing
Crossbills.

The Lake is very high - almost at spring tides, indeed, Little high the marshes at the Outlet being completely submerged. This argues ill for woodcock but Will Sargent tells me that he saw a number of Golden Plover, Yellowlegs & Curlew birds a week or so ago before the water (sent down by raising the gates at Middle Dam) caused the feeding grounds.

Golden Plover
Yellowlegs
Plover

Both last night and this I heard warblers & Wilson's Thrushes migrating but the flight was evidently not nearly so heavy or continuous as that noted at Holland on the night of the 21st.

Megascops

1898.

August 24

Sunny and warm much of the day but with threatening cloud masses drifting across the sky and distant thunder late in the afternoon. Shortly after dark it began raining and through the remainder of the night it rained very heavily.

I awoke at daybreak this morning and the first sound that I heard was a rapid whuff-whuff-whuff clearly resembling the puffing of a steam engine and passing directly over the tent. I knew at once that it was made by the wings of some large bird and a moment later the prolonged, quivering laugh of a loon proclaimed the posthucous species. Loons often fly over Pine Point in the early morning but seldom or never by day.

At sunrise several birds sang rather freely for a few minutes, a Red-eye, a Canadian Warbler and an Amer. Warbler keeping it up the longest. I heard Pileated's Hyla note only at sunrise but during the whole night when I was awake.

Just after breakfast a Moose Bogler alighted on the tent pole in front of the camp remaining there nearly a minute before he discovered our presence.

Later in the afternoon I observed a Porcupine in a poplar on the edge of the woods at the extremity of the point. He was sitting erect on a stout branch clasping smaller branches above with his fore paws, his general attitude and the use of the fore paws reminding us all of an ape. When we pelted him with pebbles he walked back along the branch and climbed higher up the main stem of the tree, throwing it exactly like a Bear. Will Steen and George Farnsworth arrived by the boat this evening.

Climate
under

Base
alights on
tree
Canada
Porcupine

1898.

Pine Point

August 25 Heavy rain with S. & E. wind through the forenoon. Afternoon clear. A succession of thunder storms at evening lasting well into the night.

Spent most of the day at camp working on the canvas whenever the rain held up. In the afternoon Bill Stone, George Farnsworth, & I sailed across the lake to my old camping ground. Saw four Herring Gulls, all old birds, feeding together on the water near the Outlet. During the rain storm in the forenoon a Black-bellied Plover was flying about over the lake without any.

Will StoneGeo. B. FarnsworthHerring GullsBlack-bellied Plover

" 26 A superb day, cool, with fresh but very steady west wind.

We all went out sailing in the forenoon and again in the afternoon visiting the submerged Outlet marshes on both occasions and in the afternoon taking a stretch up the lake as far as Whale-back Cove. Saw a ♀ Marsh Hawk, a Great Horned Owl, a Wilson's Tern, two Great Frigatebirds flying over the lake, several Ospreys, four Barn Swallows, a Loon, and a flock of eight Sandpeeps.

OutletSailingLakeMarsh HawkW. L. TernGreat FrigatebirdOspreysSwallowsLoonSandpeepsBoys on

There were a few Warblers in the woods on the point but the wind blew so hard that I could not get a good view of them among the treetops. Heard White-winged Crossbills chasing in the air overhead. At sundown a Canadian Warbler sang a few times & later a Red-eye warbled a little in broken tones. No sign of either last night or this.

1898.

August 27

Clear and cool with strong east wind. The sunset was unusually fine.

Spent most of the day looking over the lake taking the launch boat out in the afternoon. Saw nothing of much interest. A flock of Leontine Black Ducks, the first that I have noted here this season, passed over us late in the afternoon when we were off Pine Point, carrying directly over one of the canoes within good gunshot - a most exceptional occurrence.

Sailing on
the lake.

Black Ducks

1898.

August 28

Clear with light S. to S. E. breezes alternating with periods of dead calm. A dense fog in the early morning.

Pine Point.

Awaking at daybreak I heard ^{either Rose-breasted Grosbeaks or} Swainson's Thrushes calling out over the lake. There seemed to be a number of them and they were evidently wandering about, bewildered, in the fog for the sound of their voices approached and receded many times and continued altogether at least ten minutes. Later in the morning Mr. Sargent, while rowing to B. Moore Point, saw two dead birds floating on the water but he did not pick up either of them.

Migration

There was a large mixed flock of small ~~birds~~ birds on the Point this morning and I spent sometime trying to identify them but they kept in the tops of the tallest trees and I made out only a very few among which were a Bay-breasted Warbler, a Black-burnian and two Usnea Warblers. I heard one of the last named singing freely. A Canadian Warbler and a Black-throated Green were in nearly full song earlier in the morning. Red-eyed Vireos sang at intervals during the whole day and one of them was in good voice. A Solitary Vireo was singing freely on the Myagalloway early in the forenoon.

Mixed flock on Pine Point.

Bay-breasted W.

Birds in song

At 8 a. m. we all started across the lake each in a sailing canoe. We entered Bernard's Pond at the eastern end, passed around the island by the northern channel, thence down the Androscoggin to the Myagalloway and back to camp by way of Mear's Carry and across the Outlet marshes and five or six feet under water.

Bernard's P. & Outlet marshes

1898.

August 28
(No 2)

Later in the afternoon Mr. Starn and I walked through the woods to Osgeard's Point. Last autumn the guides threw a half-bushel of salt on the ground near this path. The deer found it and the effect of their visits to the place is surprising enough. Over a space of a quarter of an acre or more there is not a trace of vegetation save that represented by the larger trees—not a fern, nor a patch of moss, nor so much as the smallest leaf or blade of grass. The ground everywhere is trampled smooth and hard and in several places holes a foot or two deep and a yard in diameter have been dug. The whole area looks like a much used cattle pen.

As we were sitting on the rocks at the end of Osgeard's Point we saw a number of Sheldrake round the S.W. extremity of Pine Point about half a mile away. As they were heading towards us we decided to sit still and see if they would not come past us watching them the while through our glasses. He might have concealed ourselves easily enough but I wanted to test the truth of a statement that Mr. Johnson had made to the effect that Sheldrake will not notice a man in the most exposed situation provided he remains motionless. These birds came on rapidly following every indentation of the rocky shore, now flying out in single file, next scattered about or huddled closely together, occasionally thrusting the water with their wings and frequently diving.

Pine Point

We put
out salt
for Deer
with
astonishing
results.

Merganser
American

1898.

August 28
(No. 3)

Osgood Point

Merganser
Americanus.

I had several opportunities for watching the ~~thrashing~~ performance closely and I am satisfied that on this occasion, at least, it was not performed, as has been supposed, for the purpose of driving fish in shoal. The birds did not first arrange themselves in a semicircle as had been described (in *Fowls & Stream*) nor did they wave towards the shore while beating their wings. On the contrary they simply kept on their way (over in high tide), first beating their wings and ^{then} just ducking under for a moment at the end of the "thrashing". The whole thing seemed to me to be done in three spots. Black Ducks indulge themselves in much the same way but less frequently.

When diving for fish the Goldeneye often springs forward quite out of water and arching their backs clef the surface so deftly as to leave scarce a ripple. Their dives were usually short and invariably made in the general direction in which the flock was moving. That is to say they were turned back but occasionally a bird would come safe a little way out from shore when it would at once paddle hurriedly in to join its comrades.

At length the flock reached us and rounded the point within three feet of the shore and not over half feet from where we were sitting! But so far as we could make out not a bird discerned us or even suspected the presence of danger. There was just a look of them and for a moment or two a blunder would have caught them all,

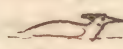

1898.

Osgood's Point

August 28
(No 4)

Beautiful creatures they were with their soft gray
plumage and fluffy, tawny crests carried low down on
the head and terminating in delicately drawn points

Megascops
americana

 Just as they came abreast of us each
bird lowered its bill suddenly and thrust its
head beneath the surface until the water came about
half an inch above its eyes. In this attitude and
without for an instant checking their speed they
proceeded steadily on and passed out of our
sight behind a projection of the shore. This Sergeant
tells me that he has often seen Shorelarks partially
immerse their heads in this way & he agrees
with me ^{in believing} that it is done for the purpose
of enabling the bird to discover its fishy prey
without the trouble of diving. 

After passing the point these Shorelarks entered
our Duck Cove and collected it finally passing
out around the next point beyond. During the
whole time that we watched them they must
have covered nearly a mile of shore line. I do
not doubt that they often traverse a dozen miles
a moon in a day keeping all the while within
a few yards (often within three or four feet) of
the water's edge.

1898.

August 29

Cloudy with strong S. & E. wind.

Spent most of the day sailing canvas off the point where the strong wind and heavy seas made the sport exciting enough. Saw very few birds and nothing of any especial interest. A Red-eyed Vireo warbled occasionally during the forenoon but there was no other singing.

Singing in
the bushes

Will Sargent tells me that late last autumn (in November he thinks) his brother Samuel saw a Snowy Owl at the Meadows of Richardson's Lake. It was perched on an upturned root at the water's edge. Just as he was about to shoot it flew and rising above the trees made off over a point of land. He afterwards came on its again further up the lake & fired at it catching one more wing feathers which he describes as from white with black markings.

Snowy Owl
on
Richardson's
Lake

At about noon to-day I was surprised to hear a Great Flycatcher directly in front of the camp. First it called whit a few times and then it gave at least a dozen chicks in quick unbroken succession but in rather feeble tones.

Great
Flycatcher

Owls - either lesser or very silent this year. I heard the first to-night, a Great Horned Owl that hooted a dozen times or more (at 8.30 P.M.) in the direction of Moses' Rock.

1898.

August 30

Early morning clear, still, warm. A strong west wind and drifting cloud masses during the remainder of the day.

Pine Point

The night was clear and warm. Head Hawks circling at intervals but the flight was rather heavy and continuous. From 7 to 8 a.m. the Point was alive with small birds among which I identified Chickadees, Canada Nuthatches, a Downy Woodpecker, a Black-throated Green Warbler, a Black-burnian, two Black-throated Blue Warblers, a Solitary Vireo, a Red-eye, a Goldfinch, a Junco, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Blue Jay & a Downy Woodpecker.

Migration

The two vireos were in full song for some time; the Black-burnian sang feebly for several minutes, at brief intervals.

The Grosbeak, a young ♂ with the whole breast suffused with pale rose color, alighted in the tall pine in front of the camp where he sat for several minutes cackling te-hick and hee.

At about noon Bill Sargent saw a hummingbird fly into our open steel camp where it alighted on the corner of our dining table. It was here mistaken for a large crimson table cloth for a bed of flowers.

Hummingbird

We spent the day down the Androscoggin-River stream, George Farnsworth, Jim, & I - going in four canoes and visiting Sweet and Curtis Meadows and Great Hill Pond. I did not go in to the last, however, but waited by the brook while the others went. Two Solitary Vireos were singing near me and jays screamed at intervals.

Sweet Me.Curtis Me.Great HillPond

There was no water foot in either Sweet Meadow or Great Hill Pond but in Curtis Meadows we started 23 Black Ducks and two Hooded Ducks, the latter among the fallen tops at the inlet. Heard two Hudsonian Chickadees calling near this inlet.

Black DucksWood

1898.

August 30
(No 2)

Several mixed flocks of warblers were seen in the woods along the Androscoggin but I had no opportunity to examine them closely. In Great Meadows 30 or 40 Barn Swallows were flying over the water and I saw three or four Barn Swallows near the Outlet of the Lake.

East Swallows
Barn "

Several Ospreys and one fine adult Bald Eagle were seen during the day. Eagles are comparatively scarce this year although Blackbird is said to have trapped only one.

Ospreys
Eagles

A number of the maples along the Androscoggin have begun to turn and I saw several that had attained their full autumnal coloring as have two at our landing at Pin Point.

Autumn
foliage

We came down Lake in the afternoon more easily and pleasantly sailing practically the entire distance from the head of Androscoggin to Pin Point.

1898.

August 31

Pine Point.

Early morning clear and calm with fleecy masses of clouds running swiftly across the sky foretelling the strong north-west wind which started at 8 a. m. and blew all through the remainder of the day.

Migration

During the whole of the early part of last night and afterwards, whenever I was awake, I heard Warblers and ^{either Prothonotaries or Thornbushes} calling incessantly. The flight must have been practically continuous and of unusual vigour. When I awoke at grey dawn, this morning the calls were still coming from every direction. At 5.30 a. m. when I went down to the cove for my bath I found the woods literally swarming with Warblers. They kept in the tops of the tallest trees and were very restless & nervous chirping incessantly and taking long flights across the cove & over the woods. At 6 a. m. they began rising from every part of the woods on both sides of the cove, mounting to a height of 300 or 400 feet and then flying off in various directions in small parties. Sometimes one would chase another, in play apparently, but most of them seemed to be impelled by some unseen & ill-defined impulse. The majority returned and shot down into the tree tops on the point only to make another general start a few minutes later, repeating this many times. There were so many in the air at once that it was impossible to keep track of them all and I am by no means sure that a good many did not follow the example of two birds (D. coronata, I think) which started with the first flight from the Point and keeping

1898.

August 31

(No 2)

Pine Point.

Magnesian

close together continued rising until they had attained an elevation of at least 2000 feet. They then started due south (i.e. directly down the Goler) flying on an apparently level plane and in a most curious manner, alternately flapping and sealing on set wings like a Gannet or Shearwater. There was, moreover, something connected with this manner of flight which made the birds look more than double their usual size. When they were fully a mile distant I could see them distinctly with the naked eye and with the glass I followed them to beyond ^{Base.} Point, or more than two miles from the place where I was standing. When I finally lost them they were keeping straight on down the Goler. Just before they passed beyond my vision I happened to raise the glass slightly when I made out a cloud of small birds flying above the Yellow-rumps at a very much greater elevation and flapping & sealing in the same manner. The conditions were unusually favorable for an observation of this kind the air being very clear and the sky to the southward of a dead, opaque white against which the dark little flocks showed distinctly. It is possible, also, that there was some magnifying quality in the atmosphere at the time.

While my attention was absorbed by watching the two Warblers, just unnoticed all the others must have left the Point for good for when I turned & wandered back to camp the woods were silent & deserted. Later in the day a few small birds appeared in the bird grove. At about dinner I heard an Oven bird sing twice & afterwards a Solitary Vireo & a Red-eye sang a little.

1898.

September 1

Pine Point

Last night was clear still and warm (60° at 9 P.M.) with a nearly full moon. Up to 9 A.M. to-day the sky was cloudless and there was not a breath of wind. Later a S.E. wind arose and the sky clouded over. There has been no fog the past two nights.

Migration

Thrashers and Swainson's Thrushes were migrating all last night but I heard them at infrequent intervals and only in small numbers. An immense flight must have reached here about daybreak, however, for when I went down to the cove at 5.30 the woods all over the Point were simply filled with little birds. Indeed I do not think I have ever seen so many there before. For an hour after this they were exceedingly nervous and restless keeping high up in the trees, continually dashing hither and thither in small parties and every few minutes rising above the woods and leaving the Point in large numbers. They rose in spirals and to such a height that I could not follow them even with my glass. Sometimes practically all would depart in the course of a few minutes but ten or fifteen minutes later there would be as many on the Point as before. As nearly as I could make out successive large flocks came from the north, flitting from tree to tree through the woods, and each flock on reaching the end of the Point mounted high in air and started on a more or less extended aerial journey southward but it is possible that there was only one flock and that it made a number of "false starts," returning to the Point after each in such a manner as to elude my observation.

On this as it may the movements ceased at about 7 A.M. after which, for two or three hours, the birds were much less restless and occupied themselves almost wholly in feeding. During this period they were quite as numerous as at any time earlier in the morning. They were spread

1898.

September 1

(No 2)

Pine Point.

pretty evenly over the entire Point but I found the greatest numbers in the birch grove near the camp. Following the foot paths which give easy access to every part of the woods I took as complete and careful a census of the flock as possible but the birds kept chiefly in the tops of the trees and the density of the foliage made it difficult to identify them. Indeed I doubt if I made out all the species present and certainly very many of the individuals escaped my notice. Here is the list which I made.

Big mixed
flock.

1. Turdus swainsonii (?) - Heard sing, last night. ^{Don't hear it. Good deal of song. Sept 20!} Perhaps all these birds are really.
2. Troglodytes hyemalis - Heard 5 young
3. Parus atricapillus - 7 in a flock.
4. Regulus satrapa - Several; one in full song for several minutes
5. Helminthophila ruficapilla - Three or four
6. Minioptila varia - Full song heard twice but no bird seen.
7. Compsothlypis a. agitata - One in full song, found a few seen
8. Dendroica coronata - 7 in a flock in autumn plumage.
9. " costaricensis - One ♀ or juv. ♂ with only a trace of song on forehead.
10. " flavica - One young bird
11. " maculosa - Full song 8 or 10 times 6 A.M. About 8 birds seen
12. " pusillus - One young bird wholly without ornament.
13. " viridis - Two young birds
14. " caterula - At least a dozen of better sizes.
15. " caesia - A young ♀ deep, pure yellow beneath. In top of tall birch.
16. Sotophaga rubra - ♂ ad. in full song for 10 minutes, 8 A.M. Also ♀ or juv. ♂.
17. Vireo olivaceus - One in full song, two singing feebly, several seen
18. " solitaria - One singing feebly.
19. Ampelis cedrorum - Heard
20. Loxia c. minor - 7 birds heard
21. Spinus tristis - One heard.

1898.

Pine Point

September 1
(no 3)

22. Habia ludoviciana. - One chiding
23. Corvus americanus. - Two
24. Empidonax flaviventris. - One
25. Chaetura pelagica. - Two flying over
26. Cephalæus pileatus. - One showing
27. Picoides arcticus. - " clocking
28. Dryobates villosus. - " hunched
29. Spizopius uiridis. - One seen flying
30. Accipiter velox. - Adult ♀ in birds grove watching the little birds
31. Pandion carolinensis. - One flying past the Point
32. Merganser americanus. - A flock of twelve swimming close under the Point.

I have never seen the woods on Pine Point more beautiful than they were this morning with the low sun sending shafts of light in among the densely-growing, white-throated birds. The presence of the birds lent an added interest, of course. At one time I was surrounded by warblers which were making the branches shake and the foliage tremble on every side while a Sharp-shinned Hawk sat perched within twenty yards watching them on the birds and a dozen Scaup were swimming and diving close under the rocky shore on my left and not thirty yards away.

Dendroica coronata has two notes which closely resemble those of the Junco. One is a soft tsup, the other a twittering flight call ti-ti-ti-ti-ti / exceedingly like that made by the Junco when first taking flight but less loud. These warblers are exceptionally numerous here this autumn. I saw at least a dozen this morning. They are often seen in the tops of tall trees at this season.

the interesting

the interesting

Dendroica

coronata

(Call notes)

1898.

Pine Point,

September 2

Last night was cloudy and warm with a light rain. There was a thin fog at day break. The forenoon was cloudy, settling and dead calm. Heavy thunder showers from 7 P.M. to midnight.

Of June 2
for Sept. 10

I heard a few Warblers, Swainson's Thrush and Rose breasted Grosbeaks migrating at intervals through the night. At day break a Bay-breasted Warbler sang a dozen times or more. He was in fairly good voice and must have been an old bird. Later a Solitary Vireo and one or two Red-eyes sang in flocks, broken tunes.

Migration

About fifty Warblers spent the forenoon on the Point keeping down their usual & finding freely among the Grebes and others along the shore. I looked them over very carefully and found among them a young(?) ♂ Helminthophila celata and a ♀ Dendroica tigrina, both in full autumn plumage. There were also two Canada Warblers, one Black-throated Green, a number of Mockers, Black & Yellows, Black-throated Blues, Black-throated Greens, Yellow-rumps and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Big mixed
flock

Hel. celata
D. tigrina

One of the Yellow-rumps, a ♀ in worn breeding plumage, was feeding a brood of young which were still in first plumage. An unusually tame Boon, a young bird in gray dress, flies off the Point and at the mouth of the boat can usually be seen every day, often working close in shore.

D. coronata
feeding
young.

Rabbits appear to be scarce on the Point this year and there are not as many Red Squirrels as usual. Chipmunks are in the usual numbers. We have turned at least four which will eat or rather take corn from our hands carrying it off to their store houses. We have seen no Flying Squirrels as yet. Porcupines visit our door yard every few nights.

Rabbits
Red Squirrels
Chipmunks

Porcupines

1898.

September 3

Pain Point

A beautiful day, clear with fresh W. wind which died wholly away in hour before sunset. Evening still clear & very warm.

Migration

I heard no birds migrating last night and there were practically none on the point this morning except the local Titmice, Kinglets etc. But a flight of unusual magnitude began this morning as soon as it became fairly dark and lasted until I went to bed at 9 P.M. During this period Robins and Thrushes were calling incessantly in the Star-Cin. Fly. I do not think that I have ever heard so many Thrushes before in any one evening. Perhaps some of them were Rose-breasted Grosbeaks for I am not sure that I can always tell the night call of the latter from that of Harrison's Thrush. All the small birds heard to-night seemed to be flying lower than usual and very many of them passed, apparently, just over the tops of the trees on the Point.

Megalloway
River.

Will Stone and I spent the day on the Megalloway going in two of the sailing canoes and paddling up river as far as Bear Brook. He landed at Pulpit Rock and visited the big boulders on the hillside above. He saw very few birds - a pair of Whistlers, two Kingbirds and two Cedar birds at Bear Brook pond, a flock of White-winged Crossbills at Pulpit Rock, a solitary Vireo, several Swamp Sparrows & a Black & White Cuckoo. Sailed the whole of the way back reaching camp at about 4 P.M.

Kingbird

1898.

September 4Pine Point

Clear, warm and still with a thunder storm in the early evening.

Spent the day near camp photographing Chipmunks etc. Very few birds about although there was a good flight last night, Warblers & Grosbeaks passing overhead between 8 and 9 P.M. in immense numbers. Saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk in the birch grove this morning. As I was watching him he left his perch and gliding with increasing brightness through the trees struck with both feet into a bunch of leaves. He did not have anything in his talons when he came out nor did I see anything fly away.

- " 5 Another clear, still and very warm day followed by a calm, ^{partly} cloudy & warm night.

At daybreak this morning I heard a number of Warblers singing and a party of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks singing as they circled over the Point. The Grosbeaks apparently settled down for the day as I heard them coming to an arrest at breakfast time but there were very few Warblers on the Point at any time. I saw one Black-burnian & heard an American Warbler and two Red-eyed Vireos singing.

Later in the afternoon I saw some Black Ducks flying up the Lake & afterwards I heard others quacking on Moose Point.

A fairly heavy flight of Warblers started this evening some after dark & continued until bed time. I also heard Grosbeaks several times.









1898.

September 6

Still another clear, calm and very warm day.

Pine Point

Although I heard a good many Woodpeckers & Grosbeaks migrating just before daybreak, as well as earlier in the past night, there were only a few small birds on the Point through the day. Parula Woodpeckers and Red-eyed Vireos were singing most of the forenoon and with almost as much energy and persistence as if it had been June instead of September. Apparently they were old birds. I also heard a Kinglet and a Solitary Vireo sing a few times. I do not think that I have ever before heard so much continuous singing as here, during the past week. It has been due, no doubt, to the continued warm, clear weather. Yesterday and the day before Bullfrogs were thumping all around the lake.

Migration

Western Woodpecker

Singing freely

Other birds

Singing

On the 3rd I heard on Shepard 7th and to-day a Wood 7th. Hyenas have been calling incessantly, night & day. Migrations have been very common & continuous the past two evenings.

Along the shores of the lake & near the wharves are turning slowly and some of them are already bright crimson but in the woods only the Rose-pinked leaves have turned.

Autumn

Colors

The weather was settling and the sky heavily clouded this evening but as soon as it became dark and it became very dark indeed by 8 o'clock - Woodpeckers and Grosbeaks began flying in great numbers. Indeed up to the time I went to bed (10 P.M.) they were calling almost incessantly in every direction; later it began coming heavily & continued through the night. This is migration of small birds have been unusually heavy & continuous for the past week.

Migration

Wair Storm & I spent the greater part of the day photographing.

1898.

September 7

Morning sunny and very warm. Afternoon cloudy with heavy showers. Much cooler at evening.

Spent the day about camp taking a short sail on the boat in the forenoon. A Red-eyed Vireo and House Wren singing freely, a Black-throated Blue Warbler in full song for several minutes at about 8 a. m. Very few small birds on the Point this morning although a good many warblers and a few Grosbeaks were heard migrating last night.





1898.

September 8

A brilliantly clear day with fresh N. to S. breeze. Early morning cool, mid day warm (68°).

Taking advantage of the unusually heavy & steady breeze we spent practically the entire day in the sailing canoe beating about between Pine Point and the Outer marshes in the forenoon, in the afternoon going to Rapid River and sailing both ways as well as up to the river to the head of the island above the old pines.

The rain and wind made so much noise last night that I heard no sound of migrating birds & there were very few others on the Point this morning.

While off Pine Point this forenoon we saw a Northern Phalarope starting at a number of times. It was very restless continually making short flights from place to place, alighting frequently & bobbing on the waves like a cork. Once I saw it fly straight up from the water & catch a flying insect, then alight on the spot where it started. It called quie, quie when stretched. I sailed my canoe past it within ten or twelve feet.

Sailing
on the
Lookie.

Northern
Phalarope

Saw two Eagles, a Red-tailed Hawk, a Broad winged Hawk, two Fishers (the first for this season), and a Shrike, at Rapid River. On the Outer marshes started a Great Blue Heron and two Black Ducks & saw a Marsh Hawk & two Sand Larks circling about. A ♂ Picoides arcticus was hammering at the trunk of a dead balsam near the camp this evening just before sunset.

Rapid River.
Eagles
Red-tail H.

East Sanderling
Picoides arcticus

1898.

September 9

Similar to yesterday but with less wind. Early morning
densely foggy.

Pine Point.

Only a few warblers migrating last night, although the
conditions seemed favorable, and scarce half-a-dozen seen
on the Point to-day. Probably the greater number have
already gone south. Those seen or heard to-day were
Black-throated Blue, Yellow Warblers and Black-throated
Green Warblers. One of the last song fairly as did a
Red-eyed Vireo.

Migration

Just before daybreak I heard the flight call of a Thrush
or Grosbeak in the distance. The bird approached rapidly
and circled low over the Point as I could tell by
the distance & direction of its notes. Finally it alighted
in the bushes very near the tent and began making
the whining e-e-e cry of a Hermit. Up to this time
I had not been able to make up my mind whether
the bird was a Thrush or a Grosbeak; the flight calls of
the two are really almost indistinguishable I fear.

Hermit

When I first looked out from the tent at about
half-past five the lake was densely shrouded in fog.
As I stood listening to the cry of a loon some
twice calling out from the shore attracted my attention
to a file of Sheldrakes that were passing within twenty
yards of me close in under the rocks. I counted
six of them. A few moments later I saw them
crossing the mouth of the boat cove, leaving deep
furrows in the glossy surface. I could trace each
furrow to its apex after the grayish colored bird that

MerganserSheldrake

1898.

September 9 was morning it had become completely merged in
(Marz) the gray fog. Trip down the Lake.

At 8 a.m. Will Stern and I started down the Lake
into Will's launch in the big boat. The fog was rising
and breaking into scattered fragments under the influence
of the breeze, apparently, for the surface of the Lake
remained unobscured for half an hour longer. I
have rarely seen the mountains more beautiful than
they were this morning as we saw them through
the sea-mist wreaths of dissolving mist.

Near Mettallin Island we witnessed a singular phenomenon
the like of which one of us had ever seen before.
The sun had risen well above the trees and the
Lake was still perfectly calm. About 200 yards from
us to the N.W. the surface of the water on a space
apparently fifty feet long by five or six feet wide appeared
to be colored with the most vivid gold, crimson, copper &
violet and pale yellowish green. Presently this brilliant
belt faded slowly & disappeared when another similar
one appeared to the West of us. At first we thought
there must be some floating matter such as fine
freestone but this was certainly not the case. Then
we suspected that we looking at reflections from
a "sun dog" but nothing of the kind could be detected
in the cloudless sky. ~~The~~ final & no doubt ^{the} true
explanation, was that some thin wreaths of mist, lying
on or very near the water, were tinged by the
solar rays, or possibly that they acted as prisms
for the colors were noticeably prismatic in character
and very solid as well as brilliant.

Singular
phenomenon
of color
(?)



1898

September 10

Forenoon cloudy; afternoon clear with strong
N. W. wind. ~~Magnificent sunset~~ ~~officers at dinner~~

We spent the forenoon taking and developing
photographs while the men were at work getting
the house boat ready for a trip down the Ball.
We started immediately after dinner and had a
glorious sail covering the distance to Upton in
about two hours and dropping anchor at our old
station near Pease's ~~Spring~~. While crossing the upper
part of the Ball we saw a Herring Gull. As we
entered the Cambridge marshes now submerged but
with some grass showing about the edges & along
the river banks, a small flock of Black Ducks
rose and cackled over the woods. At evening saw a
large Green Heron above some flying past our boat.

Sailed the
house boat
to Upton



1898.

September 11

Cloudless with strong N.W. wind. Very cool in the early morning with frost in the low places.

Trif up
Cambridge
River.

We spent the day up Cambridge River taking the hunting boat and canvas and leaving guides and guns behind. Starting at about 7 A.M., paddling very slowly, often stopping or landing to take a position we reached B. Meadows at eleven o'clock and after going up there nearly to the middle of the open ground we returned to the Falls for lunch and a long rest and talk afterwards, lying on the sand bar, with the little river eddying past at our feet and the shaggy, natural woods stretching off into dim distances towards the east. Then we started back reaching the Falls just before dark.

On the way up the river we saw a Solitary Sandpiper, a Great Blue Heron, a Bittern, two Kingfishers, and a number of small birds chiefly Lesser Ring-necked Pheasants. Winter Wrens were very common and there were a few Maryland Yellowthroats along the river banks. A flock of five Red Crossbills flew over us and Cedar Birds were heard chirping several times. Two Flickers were "chattering" almost as freely & frequently as if it were May instead of September & both were in the depths of the woods far up from the falls. This was certainly the only Woodpecker noted.

Heron, Bittern,
Kingfisher

Red Crossbills
Flickers
"chattering"
freely -

On the way down we started a Wood Duck from beneath some overhanging alders.

Jim Mc. had a certain "native" outcrop vs. They had been above the Storie and had with them an adult & Broad-winged Hawk which they had

1898

September 11

(No. 2)

that with a rifle, the Ball ~~was~~ its wing badly. It was a fine bird, very spirited in flying, with flashing hard eyes. I bought it for a trifle and after photographing it, put it in a mossy stump, I killed it for there was no hope of its recovery.

Just as we were leaving the horse boat this morning we saw two Sparrow Hawks playing together, chasing an owl along the shore, alighting on the lopsided sprigs of the pines and firs. Some of their aerial evolutions were very graceful and beautiful. While we were at the Falls another bird of the same species passed directly over us.

Sparrows

Hawks

As we were paddling down the river at about 3 P.M. we saw a Great Horned Owl. It was quite as alert and shy as a Hawk, starting from an ash tree above the water where we were fully eighty yards away & flying back into the woods where it alighted on a large branch and sat watching us while we looked at it through our field glasses. Miss Sargent tells us that on open shores these Owls along the banks of the ~~Concord~~ ^{Concord}. The thrives they are attracted them by the house cats which they prey upon freely.

Owl

Sparrows

Lakeside, Wisconsin







1898.

Pine Point

September 12

Clear and cool with strong W. wind which died away at sunset.

Spent the day about the boat taking a number of photographs. Late in the afternoon we went out in the canoe taking nearly to Lakeside. Saw two Hares and three house Ducks. The latter were feeding along the edge of brown grass just below our umbrellas. One of them was a drake in full plumage.

" 13

Clear and much warmer with dense fog in the early morning and a strong S. wind in the afternoon.

Return to
Pine Point

At 8 a.m. the storm appeared and took us in time getting the house boat back to Pine Point two hours later. The lake was exquisitely beautiful this morning when the fog cleared. As we were passing out of the mouth of the Cambridge we saw five Swallows, three Hares and two Gulls, flying about low over the water.

" 14.

Clear and calm. Spent the day about camp. At 8 a.m. heard a Yellow-rumped Warbler singing at short, regular intervals in the woods behind the camp and finally saw the bird sitting on the opposite shore of a tree trunk. I think it must have been an old male but it was impossible to make out details of color & markings against the bright sky. Its song was full and finished but somewhat hoarse. A solitary Wren and Parula Warbler were also singing.

Yellow-rumped
Warbler in
full song

Went to Lakeside by boat to meet the Melvins this



Erigeron phillyriaefolius



1898.

September 15

Clear and warm with light S.E. breeze in P.M.

Spent last night at Balls Bluff. Mr. & Mrs. Melvin and Mr. Baker arrived by the evening stage and Miss Stone left for Nether this morning. The rest of us took the morning boat for Pine Point. The day was spent in getting our things in order.

Miss Stone
departs &
the Melvins
arrive

About an hour before sunset Melvin and I got out our guns and went to Moon Point. I have seen a few Ducks alight there at evening of late and have heard others quacking after dark but I did not suppose that any number were resorting there and expecting at the most only two or three shots I took but six shells of #4 shot & two of #8. I went in the old sinking canoe, Melvin taking a guide to the big boat. Scarcely had we reached the beach when the Ducks began arriving and for the next hour or so they came thick and fast, singly, in pairs or threes, and in small flocks. I have not seen such an evening flight before for over twenty years. Although I have often seen as many or even more birds arrive in two or three large flocks. Had we been well placed & concealed and abundantly supplied with shells we might easily have killed twenty five or thirty birds. They came in boldly and low down evidently suspecting no danger. Many birds passed within a few yards & several alighted very close by. I fired five shots and bagged a Mute Duck, a Wood Duck and a Hooded Merganser. Melvin got a Wood Duck & a Coot (Tulley).

Evening at
Moon Point

Arrival of
the Ducks

I shoot
three Ducks

1898.

September 15

(No 2)

In all we have seen at Coast survey or eighty Black Ducks, fifty Wood Ducks and between a dozen Hooded Mergansers. Besides a Teal (*Anas crecca*), which was flying in company with four Black Ducks.

Moss. P.
at
survey

Melvin saw the *Fulica* swimming about in the flooded grass & watched it for a long time. It finally disappeared in the grass but a little later while passing the boat across the marsh he flushed and shot it. It is only the second bird of this kind that I have ever seen at Chesapeake.

Fulica
crenata

At Badinier this morning I heard a white-bellied Nighthawk calling woe-woe-woe at short, regular intervals for ten or fifteen minutes.

Sitta carolinensis
singing in
acacia

1898.

Sept. 16

Cloudy with occasional showers.

2 Moon Point with Nelson at evening. Only a very few ducks came in and we did not return of us get a shot. A flock of Western Rusty Grackles came past very close flying just above the top of the grass and finally alighting in some half submerged trees.

Moon Pt.
Sept 16

Mazellway River, Maine

1898.

September 17

Clear with strong W. wind.

The Melvins, Mr. Baker and I left camp at 10 a.m. on the Steamer Canal for the Upper Mazellway, taking three guides (Jim Berwin, Wier Sargent and Belsworth Soudou) and three boats. Fred Flint went up at the same landing and drove us and our boats & camping outfit to his house where we spent the night. Jim Berwin went to the dam at the head of this class of falls and caught about thirty small trout before dark.

On the lower Mazellway saw three loons & a few Kingfishers. A flock of about 40 loons on the hillside opposite Flint's arching about and alighting, making a great clamor and acting like migrants.

Weather
By Flint's
Camp

Upper Megalloway River, Maine

1898.

September 18

Early morning densely foggy; forenoon cloudy with heavy rain; afternoon clearing with a bright sunset.

Fine Flints
to the

Meadow Camp

Left Flints at 9 a. m. and drove across the Carry (2½ miles) to the head of Arischo's Falls. The steamer came at 10.30 and at 11 we started up river in a pouring rain. The curtains were all covered and we saw but little of the scenery. The Captain showed us where a large bull moose had been seen a few days before standing on a strip of marsh at the mouth of a brook.

The boat runs up only 16 miles to the Meadow Camp where we landed at 1 P. M. This camp belongs to the Penobscot Club but outsiders are welcomed when there is room for them and we spent the remainder of the day and the following night there.

Boat in the afternoon we roved up river about two miles seeing a ~~Butcher~~, several Kingfishers, a Robin & a number of Swamp Sparrows. The wing of a young Night Heron, freshly cut off, lay on the ground at the landing. One of the guides said that it had belonged to a "Hawk" & that the bird had been shot on the river near by. Huttonian Chickadees & Yellow Rumps were heard near the camp and a Winter Wren & Song Sparrows seen there. At evening a Parula bird & Swamp Sparrows sang freely a few times.

Night Heron

Small birds

Sapsuckers (*Phryganis variis*) had dug some wells in the trunk of a rather large yellow birch that stands in front of the camp and at least two birds (both young) keep about the place at all hours of the day resorting frequently to the sap well to drink. Twice they met there and on each occasion a deepening protracted and bitter

September
fighting

Upper Megalloway River, Maine

1898

September 18

(see 2)

combat around. There was no preliminary dodging or forcing but the moment the two birds came together they clinked and went fluttering down to the ground where they rolled one and over for two or three minutes. Once they separated of their own accord but the other then one of the guides walked to the spot and thrust at them just missing them. I could not make out their action birds seemed very nervous in my case. I saw them they pecked or struck at one another. It was simply a back-and-forth game from beginning to end.

September

fighting



Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898.

September 19

Sunny but with very sultry atmosphere and a violent N.W. wind. A heavy thunder storm in the early evening.

From the
Meadow Camp
to the Falls.

Left the Meadow Camp (where we left Mrs. Melvin) at 8 a.m. and reached Penobscot Cove (near the Falls) at 11.30 a.m. covering the whole distance (12 miles). The river for the whole of this stretch reminded me of the Cambridge but it is wider and even more beautiful with frequent glimpses of rather high mountains. It is quite as winding as the Cambridge and a straight stretch more than 100 yards in length is a rarity. For the first eight miles it flows through rich meadows lands dotted with clusters of elms and ~~white~~ ^{white} poplars and shaggy with rock beds of wild grasses.

Scenery

For the last four miles there are high banks covered with "green woods" and the current is very rapid in places. I have rarely seen a country so nearly barren ^{rich} of animal life. A Fish Hawk, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, two Kingfishers, a Flicker, two or three Blue jays, and a few Yellow-rumped Warblers were all the birds that we saw during the trip, but I heard a Pin Grosbeak and several Hudsonian Chickadees. Not a Mole nor a Muskrat nor even a Red Squirrel was seen. The total absence of Ducks was the strangest thing of all for there are countless lagoons & pond holes admirably suited to the wants. I remember that twenty five or more years ago when Ducks were very numerous about Umbagog there were said to be almost none on the Upper Megalloway.

Birds

Pin Grosbeak

Total absence
of Ducks!

We fished at Grass Sedge at sunset but caught only two small trout. A Peabody bird sang twice & a Hermit chickadee near us. Night closed in dark rain & wind but the stars were out by 10 P.M.

Faint
fishing

Upper Megallow River, Maine.

1898.

September 20

Morning broke cloudy and raining but soon sky began to appear steadily after sunrise and more of the day was bright and sunny although the sky was filled with clouds & there was a violent N. W. wind. The misty haze had entirely disappeared.

We pitched the tents last evening on the river bank opposite the Casey in a thicket of alders under some tall firs and paper birches. No Owls were heard during the night but whenever I was awake I heard the calls of Thrushes and Herons passing southward. At daybreak this morning a small party of Thrushes circled over us and finally pitched down near the tents. The expression of the last four weeks has convinced me that the western flight calls of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and the Swainson's Thrush are practically indistinguishable. Early in September I heard Grosbeaks come over Pine Point & shortly were very tent gradually changing the night call into one of the characteristic day notes. One of the Thrushes heard this morning changed the same call in the same way into the unmistakable (C. 1-1) of Thrush Swainsoni.

As we were eating breakfast a number of small birds came flitting about us in the alders. There were 5 or 6 Chickadees, about the same number of Parus ludovicianus, a Nashville Warbler, a Canada Warbler or two and a young Wood Pewee! The last was very tame & I identified it beyond any doubt. At daybreak I heard a Peewee bird & a Swamp Sparrow sing several times. A Pine Siskin was also heard passing overhead and once I thought I caught the piping note of a Pine Grosbeak in the far distance.

Morning at
Pine Point
Casey.

Swainson's
Thrushes
migrating.
Their night
cry identical
with

Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898

September 20

(222)

Much of the forenoon was devoted to breaking camp and packing our things into the boats. At 11 a.m. we started down river. Jim and I stopped several times to take photographs so that we fell far behind the others but we joined forces again at Upper Metabes Pond (where we had arranged to spend the night) at about 2 P.M.

Upper
Metabes Pond

On the way down Melvin, who led, saw a Fish Hawk, Osprey, two Sheldrakes & a Muskrat; I saw a Flicker, a Spotted Sandpiper, a Canada Warbler, a number of Blue Jays, Small Birds and Yellow-rumps and I heard Hudsonian Chickadees several times. Deer signs were very numerous. Many dead ones were found with tracks and broken paths led along the banks and were worn deep into their forest where the animals were in the habit of crossing or crossing the river.

Deer Signs.

Upper Metabes is a pretty little pond of about forty acres in extent, shallow, with large patches of lily pads and strips of grassy marsh all around its edges. It is directly connected with the river by a short winding creek. There are extensive & very beautiful views of distant mountains to the north & west.

We camped near the water edge on the lower shore among downy young Carexes. Just before sunset I went out on the pond and cast for half an hour or more taking two trout, one of nearly half a pound. While thus engaged I saw a Bittern rise from the marsh and fly off down river croaking loudly. A pair of Thiny Woodpeckers near us were making a great racket, pounding on downy Carex stalks & calling. The sunset was magnificent.

Trout
fishing

Bittern.

Hairy
Woodpeckers

Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898.

September 20
(no 3)

Just after supper as we were sitting around the fire smoking & talking we heard a Great Blue Heron making a continued loud quacking in the distance up river. A little later a deep, hollow growling sound came from the forest behind us. I do not remember to have heard anything like it before & I cannot imagine what animal could have produced it.

Still later something flitted by just within the extreme outer circle of light from the camp fire. It looked like a large bird but just beyond the spot where I had lost sight of it I suddenly saw to see with a Saw-whet Owl. He was perched on a drooping spray of arbutus near his feet above the ground and within five feet of my head, balancing himself gracefully with half-spread wings. Such a pretty, alert little creature, as unlike as possible to the grotesque, blinking birds we find doing by day in our Massachusetts woods. I wish I could have had a better look at him but the moment after I discovered him he took flight again and hovering close past me flitted back towards the camp apparently alighting nearly over it although I failed to find him again.

I forgot to note that Melvin, on entering the pond, found three Common Golden Pheasants swimming together near the outlet. I saw one of them afterwards when I was engaged in fishing.

Two Partridges were heard drumming to-day one on the river bank, the other near camp this afternoon. Mr. Sargent hunted up both Killdeer one of them.

Soon after we went to bed a fearful gale of wind swept on us threatening to blow down the tent.

Upper
Megalloway PondSaw-whet
Owl visits
our camp.Red-bellied
Grackles

Partridge





Galloway Ri



Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898.

September 21

Another wild, windy day, the sky filled with masses of racing clouds amid which the sun by turns shone and hid his face. Melancon Pond to Thins.

At daybreak a Black Duck quacked loudly and incessantly on the pond until, looking, starting forth in his boat to try the trap again, disturbed and drove him away. Black Duck

By 8 a.m. the camp was dismantled and every thing packed in the boats and we started down river. It was a hard chance for photographs but I kept taking them, nevertheless, and again fell behind the rest of the party. Photography

We came together at the Meadows Camp, however, and at Bruden Brook where we stopped for lunch.

The afternoon was spent in going down to Asiscaw Falls where Thins met us and took us to the boat to his home for the night.

The distances covered to-day were as follows.

Melancon Upper Pond to Meadows Camp 3 miles

Meadows Camp to Bruden Brook $3\frac{1}{2}$ "

Bruden Brook to Asiscaw Falls $12\frac{1}{2}$ "

Total - 29 "

Below the "Narrows", where the river passes through a narrow channel between two ledges, the scenery is comparatively unattractive if not, in places, positively dreary for the river banks are fringed with long rows of dead or dying trees killed by the back water from the dam below. Nevertheless the views of the mountains are constantly changing & some of them are very beautiful. Scenery

1898

September 1

(No 2.)

Upper Megalloway River, Maine.Golden Eagles

Birds seen
between upper
Metacum Pond
& F. House.

The most interesting birds seen to-day were a pair of Golden Eagles soaring in company high among the clouds (Jim thought at least three miles above the water) over the river & Little Balsam Upper Metacum Pond, & a Group. Horned Hawks near the Meadows Camp, and several Flickers just below this camp. Blue jays were easily numerous and there were more than any others there we have seen above. Melvin started them. Black Ducks & I saw a Hooded Merganser just above the falls. Of course there were troops of Chickadees, Kinglets, & Yellow-rump Warblers every where and then & one I heard Goldfinches, but taken as a whole this stretch of river had scarcely more bird life than that above the Meadows Camp.

Kingfishers
Black Ducks
Hooded Merg.

Small birds

I was greatly interested to be within half-a-mile or less from this camp a large Wood Tortoise basking himself on the bank of the river. He passed within six or eight feet of him without disturbing him. A year or two ago I saw what I took to be one of these Tortoises on the lower Megalloway near Peepit Rock & "Lentils" of some kind are said to be numerous in the lower Cambridge just above the falls but no Tortoises of any description are known to have occurred in Lake Umbagog into which both these streams empty although Umbagog with its muddy bottom and warm, shallow water would seem to be admirably adapted to them.

Wood Tortoise

At 7:30 this evening we were called out to hear a "Deer Howl". The sound proved to be the bark of a Coyote which was in the first very near the house.

Fox-barking

Cottonwood River





TYPICAL BURNED FOREST SCENE



Upper Megalloway River, Maine

1898.

September 22

A beautiful day, very warm, dead calm up to 10 a.m., afterwards with strong soft S.W. wind.

From Flint's
in Pine Pt.

Left Flint's at 8 a.m. and landed the boats at the landing about a mile below his house and seven miles by river above the Thom farm. This stretch of river was new to me and I was at once surprised and delighted to find it by far more beautiful than anything either above or below. Unfortunately I had only four plates left but then I used to the best possible advantage.

The most
beautiful
stretch on
the Megalloway.

Just as we were putting the boats in the water a flock of thirteen Black Ducks passed flying up river. We saw no Ducks below until we had passed the lower landing where we halted for lunch.

Black Ducks

We had intended to visit Bottle Brook Pond on our way down but as we found a canoe at the landing where we left on 8 Melvin went up Bear Brook where he killed a downy Partridge. Jim & I meanwhile waited at Horse Run Pond where we saw three Winters.

Bear Brook.
Partridge

We reached the boats at lunch. I kept straight across to camp but Melvin stopped at Moon Point until dark. He saw a number of Ducks & a pair of Golden Plover & he heard several Snipe. The water has fallen during our absence so that the grass is showing all over the meadows but there is no ground or even mud exposed as yet, and a boat may kick them anywhere without digging.

Moon Pt.

Ducks
Golden Plover
Snipe

Upper Megalloway River, Maine.

1898.

September 22.
(no 2.)

The distance from the head of Arischo Falls to Parrochess Carry is said to be 28 miles. For the first six or eight miles above the Falls there are many long, straight reaches of dead water and the banks, as well as more or less wide belts of low, flat land back from the river, are covered with dead trees. A little above the Narrows the stubs disappear, the river becomes narrow and winding and mixed woods crowd closely down on either side to the water's edge. Still farther up we enter the "meadows" which extend for twelve miles or more with occasional breaks caused by the jutting out of ridges from the mountains on one or the other side of the river valley. These meadows are park-like in character & extremely beautiful, and the river winds through them in endless curves and loops constantly doubling back on its course. Along its banks grow elms, black ash and white maples whose branches arch out over the flowing water; farther back, as far as the eye can reach, are low stretches of low but as this season perfectly hard and dry ground covered with rank wild grasses and thickly sprinkled with fine old elms scattered about singly or in small groups. At the head of the meadows one enters the "green woods", largely composed of evergreen trees growing on high, steeply sloping banks between which the river races over a rocky or pebbly bottom or takes sudden turns around big boulders or outcroppings of ledges with here and there a bar or beach of light yellow sand. The distance from the beginning of the "green woods" to the Carry is about 4 miles.

*
Resume of
trip up the
Megalloway
to Parrochess
Carry.

Upper Magalloway River, Maine.

1898

September 22

(no 3)

The smaller mammals appear to be very scarce along the Upper Magalloway. I actually did not see either a Red Squirrel or a Chipmunk during the entire trip and but one Muskrat was seen. Deer, as I have already mentioned, are evidently very numerous. Indeed I have never seen them better so numerous & so deeply worn elsewhere.

There were many small birds of the commoner kinds but I failed to meet with many that I expected to see such as Brown creepers, Crossbills, Canada Jays, Blue-tits, Golden winged, Pileated and Downy Woodpeckers, Catbirds, Bald Eagles and Golden-eyed Doves. I also failed to hear any of the larger Owls but they are said to be very common & noisy at certain times & places.

Here is a full list of the species met with:

1. Turdus pallasi - one
2. " americanus - heard
3. Merula migratoria - one
4. Geothlypis trichas - one
5. Sitta canadensis - heard
6. Regulus satrapa "
7. Parus atricapillus } About equally
8. " hudsonicus } common.
9. Helminthophila ruficollis - one
10. Dendroica coronata - very common
11. " costaricensis - one
12. Vireo solitarius - one
13. Arrephobus cedeo - heard
14. Pinicola canadensis - One Sept. 19
15. Spizella tristis - Several in house of well dressed
16. " pinus - "
17. Turdus argentatus - One in house

1898

Upper Megalloway River, Maine.September 22-18 Zonotrichia albicollis - Several(3447) 19 Melospiza fasciata - Two (one at Meadows Camp)20 " gargiolaria - Very common along river.21 Sceloporus conspersus - Several.22 Carex amnicola - "23 Gymnoides cristata - Abundant very often.24 Contopus virens - Very bird near Falls Sept. 20th25 Ceryle alcyon - Five or six26 Colaptes auratus - Three below & two above Meadows Camp.27 Dryobates villosus - Two at Upper Metabets Pond.28 Myiarchus cinerascens - One at evening Upper Metabets Pond, Sept. 20th29 Pendion canadensis - Two.30 Agelaius chrysater - Two flying near Metabets Pond Sept. 21st31 Aspiter virens - One32 Parus am. hyemalis - Two during Sept 20.33 Aethya americana - One.34 Aldra hudsonia - Two or three35 Myiarchus cinerascens - Very few at Meadows Camp.36 Polioptila caerulea - One Sept. 18, another Sept. 20.37 Ardea obscura - One in Upper Metabets Sept. 21, then near Falls.38 Megascops americana - Two Sept. 20, 3 in. below Falls.39 Loxia curvirostris - One just above Meadows Falls, Sept 21.

Ri e



Lake Umbagog.

1898.

Sept. 23

Calm, cloudy & very warm with light showers.

Moose Pt.at evening

To Moose Point at evening. About fifty Ducks came in - Black, Wood & Mergansers. I shot down a Black Duck but lost him in the tall grass. Also fired at a Merganser but missed. A Carolina Chick calling in the grass was very tame. Several Snipe seen on ground.

Ducks

I shot down

one but lost

him.

Sora Chick.

" 24

Cloudy clearing at times.

Moose Pt.at evening

To Moose Point at evening. Seven Black Ducks and six Wood Ducks, five Whistlers and three Hooded Mergansers constituted the entire flight of water fowl. I fired a long shot at one of the Wood Ducks & missed.

Black DucksWood "WhistlersHooded Merg.

As I was crossing the marsh after it had become nearly dark I started a Gull (Fulmar) from a rank bed of half-submerged grass at almost the exact place where Wilson shot on a week or so ago. I could have killed this bird easily enough. It scattered off over a space of open water, half running, half flying and finally alighted again in tall grass beyond.

Fulmaramericana

Lake Umbagog. Pine Point.

1898.

September 25 (Sunday) Cloudy with E. wind.

At about seven o'clock this morning the mysterious Owl that we hear at Pine Point only at wide intervals began howling on the hillside behind the camp keeping it up for several minutes and then moving further off to the eastward. He did not hoot at all on this occasion.

Great Gray P.
Owl visits
Pine Point
again.

Melvin went to Lakeside this afternoon.

" 26 Morning cloudy, afternoon sunny & warm.

Early in the forenoon a flock of seven Ducks, which we all took to be Scoters were discovered swimming in the lake about midway between Pine Point and the Outlet. I paddled out to them getting within 150 yds. when they flew & I saw that they were Greater Scaups.

Greater Scaup
Ducks.

Baker returned from B. Pond this afternoon with a fine lot of trout. He reports seeing a flock of about twenty large black Ducks, which Bellamouth (the guide) says were Mottled-bellied Scoters on B. Pond this morning.

A flock of
Scoters in
B. Pond.

At afternoon Melvin started & Woodcock & a Snipe (the latter in an older way). He also saw a considerable number of Flickers (40 or 50 he says) scattered everywhere in the fields & woods.

Great flight
of C. cap.

Lake Umbagog.

Pine Point.

1898.

September 27

Clearing with occasional heavy showers. Strong N. W. wind.

Melvin came up on the Steamer this morning but he & Baker returned to Lakeside in the late afternoon. They hunted Partridges on Pine Point in the early afternoon Saturday morning and killing four. I have never allowed any birds to be killed here before but have now given up all hope of preserving them as they are constantly hunted after I leave.

My guests
shoot
Partridges
on Pine
Point.

" 28 Cloudless with strong N. W. wind and brilliantly clear air.

Baker came and sailed the home boat down the lake leaving Pine Point at 11 A. M., anchoring near Bear Island for dinner and heading Lakeside at 4 P. M. The big boat behaved unusually well but soon was lost sight of for I have decided to have all the rigging removed and the hull cut down so that she will be turned into a floating house without means of propulsion.

We sent the
home boat
to Lakeside.

Baker killed a small deer at Lakeside this afternoon & bird Sargent shot a fine ♂ Spruce Partridge with a rifle better during the fall for a specimen. Two young Spruce Grouse were killed in the same locality yesterday & last Spring Paul West found an adult pair, the ♀ of which laid an egg the next morning.

Lakeside to Bethel

1898.

September 29

Clear and very warm with S. wind.

Lakeside to

Bethel

In Melvin's, Mr. Baker & I left Lakeside this morning by Davis's stage and drove to Bethel where I stopped to pay a ~~brief visit~~ ^{brief visit} at the Giddings' where the rest of the party pushed through to Bethel.

The drive down was delightful. The foliage about the lake was only just begun to turn but in the witch and below we saw much rich and some really brilliant coloring.

In Lake Melvin's meadow in Grafton two large flocks were engaged in catching grasshoppers. One was in a very anxious manner first wing about in the grass & then leaping suddenly forward. He stopped & watched them for several minutes.

Hoxey Catching

Grasshoppers

Birds were common. I saw a flock of four or five young White-crowned Sparrows in Grafton, we saw them then flocks of Bluebirds (with 8, 4 & 2 birds respectively) in heavy, and all along the road great flocks of Grafton Sparrows & scattering Robins, Titmice, etc. In Grafton three Partridge flew from the roadside into the woods. Two Crows & a House Wren were heard singing in a playground field near Lake Melvin's.

White-crown

Sparrows.

Bluebirds.

Partridge

House Wren

1898.

October 2

Cloudy (a very dreary day), warm and calm.

I came to Concord last night and have settled at the Hayes' where I am to spend the next two weeks.

There were great numbers of birds about the house this morning. At sunrise several Song Sparrows were singing, most of them feebly and fit feebly, but one, evidently an old bird, at short, regular intervals and with as much strength and finish as in spring. A Phoebe also sang fairly well and a number of thrushes in succession. A Purple Finch sang bravely as did some Mocking-birds. A Flicker thronged in four times separately and a Chickadee gave the Phoebe call. Besides these I saw or heard a White-bellied Nuthatch, several Robins and Olive-throated Sparrows, a number of Rusty Blackbirds, Crows, Blue Jays, Chipping & English Sparrows etc. Bluebirds were in sight or hearing most of the day and there must have been a good many of them. An old male warbled repeatedly near the house.

In the forenoon I drove down to the Bassett farm. Autumn coloring
The foliage has reached the full perfection of its autumn coloring in places, especially in the low lands along the river, but in others where a leaf has turned. The sumacs and some of the maples on the Bassett place were ablaze with color. I saw few birds there.

1898.

October 3

Clear and warm with fresh W. wind - a rich, mellow October day.

Song Sparrows again singing freely about the house this morning and I heard one at about 9 a.m. along the river chanting at short intervals precisely as in Spring.

I spent the day at Ball's Hill sailing down in the morning and paddling back in the late afternoon. The river was all over the meadows most of the summer but it is well within its banks now. Dry litter grass has been cut and the meadows and river banks are even more shaggy than they were last autumn. Pat tells me that Snipe have been plentiful and that a flock of 10 or 12 Teal spent a week or more on Great Meadows last month. I saw a solitary Blue-winged Teal this morning just below Ball's Hill. It came flying past me and alighted well out in the river starting off again when I came within about 100 yards. Kittiwakes and Rusty Grackles were numerous, all along the river and the tall grass was simply swarming with Gay & Swamp Sparrows. At Ball's Hill I saw two White-throats and heard a Cat-bird. I also started a Parula. I had so much to do about the cabin that I took only one short walk.

The tulips and red maples are over the height of their autumnal glory but the upland woods show little color as yet.

A Pine Warbler was in full song on Ball's H. at 10 a.m. & 2 P.M.

Pine Warbler
in full song.

1898.

October 3

(no 2)

As we were at breakfast this morning a Solitary Vireo began singing loudly but rather brokenly in the large mountain ash that shades the house on the eastern side. It is unusual to find one of these birds so near a house and so far from the woods.

Solitary Vireo

The Rusty Grackles have established an enormous roost in the pickled weed (already blackened and withered by the early frosts) and wet grass about the edges of the shallow little lagoon at the head of Beaver Dam Rapid (a just below Dollins' Hill). As I was leaving the cabin I saw several flocks flying up river and when I reached the lagoon (5 P.M.) they were coming in from every direction but chiefly from that of Concord. The flocks varied in size from two or a dozen to forty or fifty birds each. As they came over the lagoon they circled over or twice and then swooped down on their wings. As I was watching them arrive the entire body of birds already settled were divided with a sudden panic and took flight in two detachments each of which must have contained nearly two hundred birds. The noise made by their wings was like that of a gale blowing through pine trees. Many of them returned to the weeds after a short flight but upwards of 200 settled among the branches of a nearby leafless maple covering it as with a black hall and keeping up their jingling melody until I had passed beyond hearing. As I kept on up river flock after flock of these Mockbirds passed on their way to the roost. In all I certainly saw 500 birds.

Roost of
Rusty Grackles

1898.

October 3

(no 3)

and I believe that the number was really very much greater. There must have been at least a few Cow birds, if not some Red-wings, also, but I identified only Robins. I have never seen anything like so large a roost of this species before nor do I remember one before being a roost among bareness vegetation, but always in button bushes or low willows or maples.

On the way up river I also saw a Solitary Sandpiper & a Kingfisher

1898.
October 4

Forenoon clear with fresh W. wind, afternoon
nearly calm with gathering clouds; an exceedingly
warm and sunny day.

Song Sparrows and Meadow Larks in full song
near the house early this morning & a Flicker chattering
just after breakfast. Two Pine Warblers singing freely
on Ball's Hill at noon. A Parula singing at
short, regular intervals on the Flom wall at
the S. end of the hill on 2 P.M.

Song Sparrows
& Meadow Larks
in full
song.

Spent the day at Ball's Hill, sinking down
in the morning. As I passed the Siphon ground
I saw a worm and a dog beating it and
hand for shots fired, no doubt on Siphon.

Siphon.

Walked to Davis's Hill just after dinner. Heard
a number of Sparrows & Waxwings chirping &
calling in the dense foliage but saw only one
bird distinctly - a Black-poll Warbler.

A Chipmunk has a hole in the timber
between the two cabins. Gilbert had baited him
with corn and he took some from the ground
between my feet but would not touch himself
in my hand.

A camp
Chipmunk.

The only birds about the cabin to-day were
a Cat Bird, a House Wren & four Chickadees.

Passed the Blackbird roost at 4.30 P.M. About 300 birds
& others among very many. Cow-birds heard among
roosts.

1898.
October 5

Cloudy with heavy rain all day.

Drove to W. Bedford in the forenoon, to the Bassett farm in the afternoon. Many large flocks of Sparrows seen rising from the roadsides but only Chipping and Song Sparrows audibly distinguished. Saw a few flocks of Robins in pastures. A flock of six Bluebirds near the McCoy's home.

6

A brilliantly clear and rather cool day with fresh N. wind.

Meadow larks & a Song Sparrow singing at home. The Song Sparrows kept it up steadily until nearly eight o'clock. It was delightful to hear his sweet, cheerful voice coming in at the windows at short, regular intervals. I do not remember to have heard Song Sparrows sing in this way in autumn before.

Song Sparrows
in full song

On my way down river this morning I started a Bittern in Hunt's Pond and saw two Great Blue Herons flying together over Great Meadows. As I was passing Ball's Mill a flock of five Black Ducks passed high over it. A sportsman was beating the Sipe pond & I heard him fire his shots in all.

A Cat-bird, a Black-poll Warbler, a Yellow Warbler, a Downy Woodpecker & four Jays & Chickadees were seen near the cabin. Started a large flock of Chipping in Benson's field.

1898.
October 6

As I was passing the Blackbird roost at 4.20 P.M. on my way up river a flock of Rusty's came in. I think they were the first to arrive for I neither saw nor heard any others near the place. About I saw a number of flocks coming from the direction of Concord. Most of them passed on towards the roost but one flock containing fully 200 birds alighted in a wough on the river bank. I paddled under them and looked them over carefully with my glass. As far as I could make out they were all Cowbirds. I was then that a considerable proportion of the birds which resort nightly to the roost belong to this species.

Blackbird
roost.

Last afternoon at about this time a Carolina Rail spent two days in the narrow fringe of bushes on the river bank nearly in front of the cabin. Gilbert saw one there yesterday & he & I saw what was doubtless the same bird this afternoon. We drove it into the end of the timber which we tramped over for several minutes without flushing it. Finally we saw it swimming out into the river through the picket yard. After swimming several rods one deep water it rose & flew to the shore near the upper cabin. I have an idea that it was the same bird that was here last year.

Carolina
Rail near
the cabin.

1898.

October 7

Clear and warm with light S. wind. A sharp
hoar frost last night.

Paddled down river this morning proceeding
slowly and steadily in the hope of getting
a shot at a Duck. Started a Bittern at
Hunt's Landing & another directly in front of
the cabin. As I was passing Doherty's Hill an
adult ♂ Buteo borealis flew past me & alighted
on the top of a green pine on Holden's Hill.
A few moments later a pair of Buteo lineatus
appeared soaring in circles over Great Meadows &
screaming loudly. They drifted in over Holden's
Hill & later I saw & heard one at Ball's Hill.

Buteos.

As I approached Brave Dam Rapids I saw two
Pied-billed Grebes at the entrance to the lagoon
on the right & a moment later a Coot (Fulica).
The latter had evidently discovered me for it
was making for the picketed wood which I soon
reached & entered. I paddled to the spot where
it had disappeared & stood up in the canoe
when it rose within 20 feet of me and flew
up to the extreme end of the lagoon. The
two Grebes, meanwhile, had passed me under
water and gone to the head of the lagoon where
I cornered them and had a fine view of them
through the glass. They kept diving & reappearing
in nearly the same place evidently hoping that
the picketed wood covered them. At length
they swam out past me under water. I did
not see the Coot again.

Coat &
Fulica

1898
October 7
(W 2)

While going through the small pine
of pine & oak woods on the West Bedford
House opposite the cabin this forenoon
I heard a Partridge drum a dozen times
or more. Gilbert & Mr. Gault were with
me and we were talking & complaining noisily
through the brush but we went entirely
around the bird within 30 yards or less
without releasing him. Finally I went
directly to the spot where the sound came
& flushed him. His drumming place was
unlike any I have ever seen before on
perfectly level ground but on the very edge
of an old sand bank overgrown with bushes.
The ground on the edge of the bank over
a foot about a foot square was worn
smooth & hard but there was no excrement
or feathers. Probably this is not a station
that has been much used.

Partridge
drumming
on level
ground.

Sailed down to Birch Island in the afternoon.
Saw a Pigeon Hawk skimming over the pines on
Davis' Hill.

1898.

October 8

Heavy rain last night followed by cloudy & stormy weather to-day then clearing at sunset.

To Ball's Hill as usual. Took a long walk in the woods in the forenoon. Saw a Yellow Palm Warbler in the Swamp behind the hill. A Greater Yellow-Cy flying about over the marshes elsewhere. Brewster came to be over in the afternoon. He & Gilbert says they saw them 9 of Sparrows on the W. Redford shore but I doubt it.

" 9 Clear & cool with brilliant light & strong N. W. wind

Drove to the Barrett farm in the forenoon. Saw a Phoebe flitting about the old barn cellar in which, on the decaying beams, are literally dozens of old nests of this Flycatcher.

Phoebe
visits a
nesting house

At sunset I walked across Red Bridge to the club bathhouse. Song Sparrows were singing almost as numerously and fully as in spring. From every direction over the meadows their sweet notes came to delight my ears. At least two and I think three that I heard were old birds whose voices sounded as fresh as fuel as at the height of the breeding season. I also heard a great number of them last evening as I was building up the wire but on that occasion most of them seemed to be young birds. I do not understand why the Song Sparrows are singing so much more than usual this October. I have certainly never heard anything like it in former years.

Song Sparrows
are full song

1898.

October 10

There was a sharp frost last night but to-day was cloudless and warm with a light S. wind.

At day break a Screech Owl worked for ten or twelve minutes in the pines near the house & when I told Gilbert about it he said that he had heard one at Ball's Hill on the night of the 9th & 10th.

A Screech Owl
visits the
cabin.

I spent the day at the cabin. A Brown Creeper, two Juncos, two Golden and one Ruby crested Kinglet and a Downy Woodpecker were seen near the river bank. The leaves have fallen from most of the red maples in the swamp but there has been no frost yet anywhere as yet. Many of the maples on high ground are just getting green.

On my way down river in the morning I saw a Mitten & a Black Duck. I hear Killdeer very long but they are less numerous along the river than usual owing, no doubt, to the fact that the grass has not been cut on the meadows this year.

It has been cut once a space of about an acre near the head of Means Dam Rapids and in this little opening the Sportsmen find all their Snipe. A man who was beating the place this morning told me that he & two companions bagged thirteen Snipe there on September 17th. He said there were many more that escaped. They would rise high & fly all over the meadows but they always returned sooner or later & alighted again in the opening.

Wilson Snipe

1898.

October 10

(no 2)

Just as I was about to start up the river Gilbert came in to tell me that he had seen a Duck on the opposite side of the river below the cabin. I paddled to that place and found a Blue-winged Teal swimming among the pikeweed and feeding busily. I shot it just as it raised its head and started off. It is probably the same bird that I saw on the 13th near

I shot a

Bl. W. Teal

1898
October 11

Clear with strong S.W. wind.

To Ball's Hill for the day, starting down in the early morning.

As I was passing the head of Goose Lake Rapid I saw two Coots (*Fulica*) swimming in the lagoon on the right. They discovered me almost as soon as I did them and at once paddled with the picked up. I went in after them but could not be within of them. When I hoisted my boat, however, one of them started from the reeds very near me and flew off down river, returning, just as I reached the mouth of the rapids, and circling around me over the meadows finally alighting near the head of the lagoon again. It flew very fast with its legs stretched out behind.

Coots

Saw very few small birds to-day. A pair of Black Ducks passed high over Ball's Hill & I started them. Partridges in the woods on the W. side of the house opposite the cabin.

Gilbert says that at least fifty or fifty shots were fired on the high grounds early this morning. Six or eight were seen fired there after I reached the lake.

1898.

October 12

Heavy rain last night & early this morning the sky clearing at about 10 a.m.

Spent the day at the Barrett farm. The bird thickets alive with small birds among which Yellow-rumped Thrushes were the most numerous.

" 13

A superb day cloudless and calm with brilliancy of color.

Another day at the Barrett farm representing the view at noon there. Took a number of photographs of the old house & barn. Many small birds about. A Partridge downing in the bird room near the house later in the afternoon.

" 14

Cloudy with strong N. E. wind.

Still another day spent representing the view at the Barrett farm. Drove to the cabin for lunch. While on my way back and just as I was descending the slope beyond Berwin's a large flock of juncos accompanied by several White-throated Sparrows & a few Yellow-rumps started from an asparagus bed and flew into the thickets by the roadside. Among them was an albino which I took to be a White-throated Sparrow. It was very tame & most conspicuous in the mixed crowd. I watched it a long time. It was wholly snow white with a white bill, & the absence of all color I could only judge of its identity by its size & shape.

Albino
White-throated Sparrow

1898.

Oct 14

(No 2)

which seemed to refer it to Zonotrichia. It would not walk any sound so I could get no close in that way. The only thing that made me at all doubtful as to its being a Wren. There was the fact that it hopped & flitted about very much after the manner of a Junco but it seemed altogether too large for a Junco. It was decidedly the finest albino I have ever seen living and I regretted that I had no means of securing it.

" 15

Cloudy with heavy rain last night & several brisk showers throughout the day.

C. came from Cambridge this morning & spent the day with me going over the Bassett place & dining with me at the cabin. We had planned to go by walks in the woods but the rain made them impracticable. Saw no birds of any particular interest.







1898.

October 16

Clear and cool with violent N. W. wind.

I left the Kyles' this morning and sent my effects by team to the cabin sailing down myself in the Mid-River canoe. Almy joined me at 10 a. m. and we drove together to the Barrett farm returning to the cabin for dinner.

In the afternoon we took a long walk in the woods. Small birds were scarce apparently but we started several Partridges and a Great Horned Owl. The latter we found first in the Prescott woods, but we saw it afterwards on Davis's Hill & Thomas's pine ridge. It was as shy as any Hawk starting out of game logs and taking long flights although the afternoon was bright & clear. At about 7 P. M. within the same bird or another visited Ball's Hill and called for several minutes in one of the trees on the ridge directly behind the cabin. It gave the short, choking cry, peculiar, I believe, to young Great Horned Owls. Gilbert thought this note very cat-like. He both wondered whether or no the bird was the same that we missed here last spring & afterwards liberated in the Prescott woods. It must have been one of the pair heard in Lawrence's woods.

Bubo vir.

1898.

October 17

Cloudless with brilliant sunlight & a moderate N. wind.

Spent the entire day on Ball's Hill. Saw very few birds & nothing of any especial interest.

" 18

Cloudy with E. wind & ^{other} unmistakable indications of a gathering storm but with the sun at times. There was a hard frost last night & our pump was frozen this morning.

To the Barre farm through the woods in the morning and again in the afternoon by way of the river & Davis's Hill. Saw a Hairy Woodpecker and a flock of 13 Bluebirds in the old orchard, a Nuthatch and a flock of Chickadees in the woods. As I was returning to the river just before sunset I came upon a Partridge in a wild apple tree in an opening among some pines. When I first saw him he was standing motionless on a dead branch with his neck & body in line the neck appearing as long as the body. I stopped instantly hoping that he had not discovered me. Presently he began to walk along the branch spreading his tail & erecting & twitching his rump at every step. Walking along the branch & hopping from one to another he went directly through the main body of the tree top (which was dense & bushy) & after I had lost sight of him I heard him fly. He was a very large old cock bird. Probably he was building

Behavior of
a Partridge
in apple tree

1898.

October 18 Before I disturbed him. I wish I could
(was 2) have seen him at it but as it was I saw
something new to me for his manner of moving
among the branches was unlike anything I have
ever before witnessed.

On reaching the river at Davis's Mill I climbed
the cause and had just taken up the saddle
when I heard a rushing sound as loud as
that of a gale of wind blowing through a
pine grove. The next instant an enormous flock
of Howard Grackles passed nearly over me
flying directly down river and keeping on out
of sight in the direction of Coakley bridge.
Although moving in compact order the flock
covered a space of nearly a quarter of an acre.
& I estimated the number of birds at one
hundred. There was not the slightest doubt
as to their being Howard Grackles & not cotton
body black birds or Cowbirds. It was past
sunset at the time & they were probably on
their way to their roost. I have never seen
such a flock here in autumn before.

Evening flight
of
Howard Grackles

1898.

October 19

Cloudy with strong S. wind & heavy rain beginning just before noon and lasting into the night.

Spent the forenoon superintending work on the wood road behind Ball's Hill. I am carrying it around the N. end of the little woods & it promises to be very pretty just then.

In the afternoon, despite the rain, I spent nearly two hours in the woods on the Holliston ridge & Holden's Hill. At times the rain came down in perfect sheets & the east wind roared through the tree tops and lashed the branches about. I was curious to see what wild creatures were out in such a storm. First I met a party of three Chickadees, half drenched but as cheery and busy as usual. Next I saw two Gray Squirrels one of which crossed a flooded swamp by leaping from branch to branch among low alders & wild rose bushes. He had evidently been to Holden's Hill in search of chestnuts & he also seemed cheery enough although his tail & back were badly bedraggled by the wet.

As I was standing at the west end of Holden's Hill an immense flock of Mourning Doves came from up river & passing directly over the rocky blackbird roost, at about dawn before light on eastward. Two months later I found them in the oaks & chestnuts on the Holliston ridge. They appeared to be looking for acorns & chestnuts for their flocks

Immense flock
of Mourning
Doves

1898

October 19

(W 2)

from tree to tree clustering all over the ends of the upper branches. As far as I could see they were unsuccessful in their search (both across & constraints are known this autumn). Finally they all took wing on once and crossing the Barlett's meadows swept over the woods beyond in the direction of Maine Run Bogon. As it was nearly dark at the time I am inclined to suspect that they roosted at the Bogon with the Anthesis to - night. They were probably the same birds that I saw at Davis's Hill Cove coming for the flock was of exactly the same size apparently.

The water is all over the meadows again and the Swift grounds are completely submerged. I heard a Carolina Rail then last evening but neither Rail nor Swift to - night. On the evening of the 17th at about 8 o'clock the day being clear & still at the time a Carolina Rail called Kur-wee three in succession in the meadows opposite the cabin and at evening just after sunset I heard the Kur-wee again once or twice and the ordinary autumnal call (Keef) several times in three different directions. I also heard a Swift on this evening just after the Rail had ceased. Yesterday forenoon a Greater Yellowlegs was wintering on this same meadow.

ParusCarolin.gives thecallnote

1898.

October 20

Cloudless and very warm despite a rather fresh north wind.

To Burrell farm in early morning & again in the afternoon going back to by way of the river as far as Davis Hill & thence walking through the woods.

Saw an adult Red-throated Hawk & a Marsh Hawk. Started five Partridges, then all together, & in the late afternoon heard two drumming, one in the Burrell woods, the other in Davis's swamp.

There was a small flock of Bluebirds in the Burrell orchard.

At evening a Carolina Rail called at intervals for ten minutes or more in the wooded space in the cabin. It gave the keep note only. I was struck by the resemblance of this call to the first of the whistling Hyla - the spring peep I mean. The Rail's note was a little less mellow, with less trill, and gave a sharp.

Carolina
Rail.

In the evening twilight as I was standing at the cabin door I saw a Green Owl glide past & alight in a birch by the river where it sat for a moment looking its head up & down. Wood frogs croaking near the cabin all evening.

Mr. & Mrs. Albert B. Corp of Trinidad B. M. I. / arrived this evening by the 5:30 train. They are to stay with me until Nov 22.

1898.

October 21 Heavy rain all day with S. E. wind.

Spent most of the day in the cabin. At evening a Great Owl worked a number of times in the bushes on the river bank in front of our door. Just before bed I heard a Duck pass over the river its wings making a peculiar loud, bustling sound.

" 22 Showery, with S. W. wind the clouds breaking away in the W. just before sunrise.

In the afternoon I drove the Cows to Concord where we visited all the places of historic interest. Saw large numbers of Sparrows along the roadsides & a few Robins in the fields.

" 23 A brilliant clear day with very heavy & rather cool N. W. wind.

Spent the forenoon in the woods taking the Cows over all my land to the north & west. Scattered them Partridges & saw a flock of about a dozen Juncos, Jays & Crows ^{near the cabin.} numerous. At sunset a Duck that I took to be a Ring-necked ^{near the cabin.} went ^{near the cabin.} flew.

" 24 Clear & warm with light W. wind.

Spent the entire day in the woods, the forenoon on Holden's Hill, the afternoon on the Bonnet farm. Saw only a few common birds.

1898.
October 25

Clear and very warm with strong S.W. wind.

The Coors left me this morning catching the 8.15 train for Boston where they go to Washington.

I spent most of the day in the woods going to the Bonnell farm in the afternoon. As I was taking ~~past~~ Pond Island on my way to Davis's Hill (where I usually leave the canoe walking through Percell's woods to the Bonnell place) a Coot (Fulmar) started from a bed of flooded grass and, half wading, half flying, swept before in a cluster of bushes. I have heard Southern Rails very early of late up to to-day.

" 26 Cloudy & very warm. Rain began falling at 11 a.m. and during the entire afternoon it came in torrents. At 5 P.M. the wind suddenly shifted from E. to S.W. and later it blew a heavy gale which lasted well into the night.

Spent the forenoon at the Bonnell farm. A Partridge was drumming steadily on the stone wall near where we found the nest last spring. At noon just as the rain began a Greater Yellowlegs was whistling over the meadows opposite Ball's Hill.

Took a short walk in the afternoon but saw no living creatures except one dog, sparrows.

The heavy rain is now causing the water nearly to spring white & the Great Meadows is now completely submerged. This fact is doubtless the cause of the breaking up of the great Marshbird nest. I have neither seen nor heard any birds flying there since the 1st of Oct.

High water drives the Rusty Black-birds from their nests.

1898.

October 27 Clear and cool with high N.W. wind.

Spent the forenoon writing. In the afternoon walked to the Barrett farm. Saw very few birds there. Yellow-wings, a Robin, one Cooper & two Golden-crests being the most interesting.

" 28 Clear with light S.E. wind. Cold at morning & evening, very warm in the middle of the day.

Just after breakfast I discovered a Duck in the river about opposite the cabin. When I had got the gun and loaded the canoe the bird was just disappearing in some tall grass. It started soon after this & flew out into open water on the flooded meadow. I paddled a short distance & then finding that the wind was strong enough to drift me at a good pace sat still with the gun ready. The Duck paid no apparent heed to my approach but drifted idly about near some grass. When I came within about 30 yds. I fired at the bird on the water killing it instantly. It proved to be a Greater Scaup, a young ♂, I think. I shall preserve the skin (It proved to be an adult ♀).

Greater Scaup

Duck

At the Barrett farm in the forenoon and again in the afternoon. Made the morning trip by canoe landing at Dallis Hill where I saw a Marsh Hawk skimming the brook meadow & a Red shouldered Hawk flying from Holden's Hill.

At the Barrett farm saw two Herons, the usual & a small flock of Robins, besides the usual number of Chid. geese, several Goldfinches & Rusty Blackbirds & Flashed two Partridges.

Concord & Cambridge, Mass.

1898

October 29 Cloudy with light rain.

Early this morning heard a Snow Bunting calling high in air over the meadows and saw two Fox Sparrows at the S. end of Boss's Hill.

Went to Cambridge by the 9.40 a.m. train. Found several White-throated Sparrows in the old garden although none have been seen at Concord for some time. Spent the night at Cambridge.

" 30 Cloudy with frequent showers of fine rain. The clouds breaking away at times.

Returned to Boss's Hill by the noon train and on reaching the cabin looked at over for Concord in the open course. There was no wind and the mist hung down over the hills & meadows. On the way up hill saw a Red-shouldered Hawk at Holden's Hill and a Marsh Hawk skimming over the fields on the Hunt farm. Returning in the twilight heard a Black Duck quacking and flushing among the grass on the flooded meadows opposite Holden's Hill.

1898.

October 31

A clear day with some of the day cloudy & threatening but without rain

To the Smith farm by way of Davis's Hill in the forenoon. Started three Partridges in Prescott's pines & saw two Hermit Thrushes. As I was returning shortly after noon I heard Crows cawing & looking up and saw a flock of fully five hundred nearly over Ball's Hill and at first the direction in which they were advancing fly when on migration. The Crows were coming from the N.E. & were evidently looking for a place to alight or roost, as I felt assured by their behavior, were heading towards a place where the best town of them had often halted to rest & feed in former migrations. After circling a few times they descended to the fields beyond Mearns to behind Holden's Hill. When I heard them cawing every now & then during the remainder of the afternoon. This is the first migratory flock that I have seen here this autumn.

Arrival of
great flock
of northern
Crows.

Just after dinner I noticed a Golden eye in the wire opposite the cabin. It was diving for food & I watched it a long time. Finally I got the gun and attempted to saddle out to it but it was as soon as it saw the cannon & flew off down wire returning to the same place an hour later. It was either a ♀ or a young ♂

Whether in
the wire

1898

November 1

A rare autumn day, warm and still with unusually clear, transparent atmosphere & a brilliant sunset.

Spent the forenoon on Ball's Hill where I saw a Hairy Woodpecker & a flock of Chickadees. One of the latter was unusually tame, flitting about within three or four feet looking at me curiously.

Early this morning I saw three Rusty Blackbirds flying past the hill. All three uttered the flight call and on the jangling melody to which I was familiar of their identity. This, I believe, is the first time I have ever seen this species here after the end of October.

The Crows that arrived yesterday from the north were here through the forenoon - at least two hundred or more of them were - flying about in detachments coming singly.

Crows

The Golden-eye are also here again - in the river just below Ball's Hill. The females first seen at it but I saw no afterwards apparently undisturbed.

I went down river in the afternoon, landing first in Sawyer's woods where I dug some plants for the wild garden at the cabin and afterwards walking through the woods to the Bonnet farm. Saw two House Crows & a few Chickadees. Heard a Nuthatch on Davis's Hill. Heard Grackles flying over the meadows at sunset.

1898.

November 2

Morning clear and warm with violent S.W. wind. Afternoon cloudy and threatening.

Spent the forenoon on Ball's Hill. Chickadees & a Brown Creeper there. In the afternoon walked to the Bassett farm through the woods ignoring the paths and exploring many dense, bushy places. Saw a great many juncos, six or seven Tree Sparrows, four Fox Sparrows etc. Started at least six different Partridge. They seem to be increasing in numbers here as the autumn wears on.

Last Spring we trapped a rat at the cabin and this autumn we have House Mice for the first time. They have apparently wholly supplanted the White-footed Mice, whose drumming I have not heard in the cabin since this autumn. The House Mice are much more noisy than the White-footed Mice and they gnaw more.

1898.

November 3

A perfect day cloudless and warm with almost no wind.

Spent the forenoon working on the road work on the back side of Ball's Hill. In the afternoon went to the Barrett place by way of the river to Davis's Hill & thence through the woods.

Saw at least a dozen Tree Sparrows, about fifteen Juncos, two Fox Sparrows and two Hermit Thrushes.

Dr. Arthur P. Chadbourne joined me this evening.

A Carolina Chickadee appeared this morning on the river opposite the cabin.

1898.

November 4

Weather if possible more perfect than that of yesterday, the sky without a cloud, scarce a breath of wind, the air as soft and warm as in September, the *Artemisia* red & golden.

Chadbourne and I spent the whole forenoon in the woods. The country was alive with small birds chiefly Sparrows of which a heavy flight was here and there from the N. East right. He saw at least twenty five Sparrows and about the same number of Fox Sparrows and heard both species in full song. Juncos were also very numerous.

At dinner this morning two Carolina Grebes & a Merganser were swimming in the river opposite the cabin and a little earlier Gilbert saw two Ducks of some kind flying past up river.

At about 8 a.m. Chadbourne & I discovered three Canada Geese floating on the river a little below Birch Island. We saw them first from Davis's Hill. Making a circuit through the woods we approached them from behind Birch Island. But they had been further down stream & close to the eastern shore. Presently two of them entered the grass & began feeding the third bird, a very large gander, keeping watch, floating on the open water with head & neck erect. When we showed ourselves all three birds came together & swam out but we did not hear any alarm note.

Canada Geese
in the river

1898.

November 4

(No 2)

quinn was did the birds fly. He put on life thrown in the water after looking at them as long as we wished.

At noon Chas. Brown crossed the river to visit the spring in Parker's pasture. On leaving the shore 60 or more yards back from the river on the flooded meadow he passed a single Goose within forty yards. The bird did not fly but merely paddled off through the thin, half-submerged grass. I went in search of it with my gun on Chas. Brown's return but I could not find it nor could I see any signs of the other Geese although I paddled down river nearly to Birch Island. No shots were fired down river & no boats passed during the entire day. At evening I paddled down to Conkist Bridge & back but saw nothing except a large flock of Blackbirds which I took to be Cow-birds.

I heard, afterwards that these Geese, which, almost without doubt, were the same that we saw this morning, alighted about noon in this Black meadow in a pool of water. A quinn attempted to stalk them but they were out of range & flew off in the direction of Sandy Pond.

1898.

November 5

Early morning cloudy. Remainder of day clear and very soft and warm with a light S. wind.

C. & S. R. S. came up this morning & we had a long walk in the woods going as far north as Birch Island and ending up at the Bonnet farm. Sleuthed thru or from Partridge & saw a number of juncos & two sparrows.

The Whistler paid us another visit this morning and at noon two Grebes, doubtless the same as those seen yesterday approached the cabin within 30 yards coming from across the river and swimming very fast with heads & necks erect. Suddenly both took wing rising from the water with slight difficulty. One led the other by twenty yards or more being headed first. It alighted in the middle of the river and just as its companion was passing over it, at a height of six or eight feet, it dived making a great splashing. As nearly as I could make out all this was done in play. For neither bird showed any signs of being seen us although we were standing, at the time, in the open door of the cabin.

Pied-billed
Grebes taken
wing.

1898

November 6

Forenoon cloudy & raining with S. W. wind. Afternoon cloudy & dead calm. A superb sunset - the finest remarkably fine one that we have had in four consecutive evenings.

Spent the forenoon in the cabin writing. Saw a Winter-Throated Sparrow at the S. end of Bell's Hill. In the early afternoon a number of Crows were making a great outcry in the woods over the vine and presently I saw them tearing across the Great Woods in the wake of a big bird that flew like a Great-Horned Owl alternately flapping & sailing. I have repeatedly of late seen Crows mobbing Red-shouldered Hawks but these birds do not excite them nearly so much as do the larger Owls.

On the evening of November 3rd, on that of the 4th, and again this evening, shortly after sunset, when the light was beginning to fade but the western sky was still aglow I heard Rails calling in the flooded meadows. To-night there were at least two birds a gun shot or more apart. I suppose they must have been Carolina Rails for their notes did not differ noticeably from the keep or klee which this species utters in autumn but it is very late in the season for Carolina Rails to be lingering here.

Carolina

Rails

still here

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. About two weeks ago I learned through John Sheehan that
Oct. 22. there were some turtle's eggs in the garden where they had
 been set out by Gilbert about the end of June. Wm. Brewster
 had come upon the turtle, a big snapper, laying her eggs in
 Concord not far from the cabin. The date was, I think, June
 20th last. The eggs were taken up and set out in the ground
 in another place near by and about the end of June Gilbert
 took up some and took them to Cambridge in a strawberry-box
 filled with dirt. He set them out in the box in the garden
 here in the north west corner just south of the asparagus bed.

 I visited the spot when I learned that the eggs were
 there and was shown the place. Some short sticks marked the
 boundaries within which was the box hidden under the soil.
 With a stick I carefully found the box and pried up one egg
 which I found was broken almost in two, the halves held to-
 gether by a slight connection which acted as a hinge. Open-
 ing the egg a little I saw within a small turtle well formed
 and completely filling the shell. A thin transparent membrane
 still covered the little creature. I immediately closed the
 egg and put it back exactly as I found it covering it careful-
 ly with soil. The egg was less than an inch below the sur-
 face of the ground. I had John put a wire screen around the
 spot. This screen was, when arranged, 13 inches high and 16
 inches in diameter. It was sunk into the ground all around

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. so that there should be no chance for the young turtles to
Oct. 22. crawl under.

(No. 2). For the past two weeks I have visited the spot almost daily and till to-day found no change. Yesterday I was at the enclosure in the latter part of the afternoon. This morning I went there at 12 o'clock and found in about the centre of the little yard a small hole narrowly oblong in shape, the dimensions being at the top 1 inch by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The hole was $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep and I could plainly see two halves of an egg at the bottom. They were separated far enough to allow a young turtle to crawl out.

But where was the turtle? Not in the enclosure, certainly. The dirt around the edge of the yard was not in the least disturbed and the only possible way for departure was by crawling up the wire screen. The meshes was very fine and I presume the turtle must have done it. I had never dreamt of danger from that quarter. When I saw the little turtle in the egg I remember the fine white tiny claws of the creature that were moving slowly about. John has put a netting over the top of the enclosure and if any more eggs hatch, I don't know how many eggs there are, we shall secure the young ones this time surely.

Brewster Museum, Cambridge, Mass., Oct. 22, 1898.

Walter Deane.

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. The netting that we put over the turtles' eggs on the
Oct. 23. 22nd Oct. was the sieve from the ash-barrel inverted. This
(No. 3). precluded any chance of escape on the part of the young tur-
tles. I have visited the place every day since then without
seeing any change on the surface of the ground. John was the
last to go there yesterday at about three o'clock in the af-
ternoon.

I made a call there this morning at 9.30 A.M. and was
much pleased to find a young turtle out and resting on the
ground against the side of the sieve and so much the color of
the soil that at first I did not see it at all. The turtle
was perfectly still with head and legs partly exposed and
tail curled around against the side of the shell. The shell
measured 1 inch long by 1.1 inches wide. The tail was very
long in proportion to the body, being 1.2 inches long.

On searching for the hole whence the young turtle had e-
merged I found that the old hole of Oct. 22nd had been enlarged
what was apparently the pieces of the old shell filling up
one half while the other half was the exit for the turtle of
to-day. This hole was $3/4$ by $1/2$ in. in extent on the surface
and went down at an angle of about 45 degrees for the depth
of 3 inches and at the bottom I could see the white surface of
an egg shell. I am doubtful whether this shell belongs to
the turtle just hatched for when I gently poked the shell with

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. a stick some liquid matter oozed up as if the egg were still
Oct.28. full of something.

(No.4). I took the turtle into the Museum and put it for a time
in the basin in my room with a little water. It soon showed
signs of activity and began to move about.

John has made a pen in front of the Museum surrounded by
wire netting. A large saucer of a flower-pot is sunk into
the ground and ^sif filled with mud and water to simulate as
nearly as possible the little creature's native element.

The shell of the turtle was still quite soft.

Museum, Cambridge, Mass.

Walter Deane,

Nov.3. John and I have visited the turtle bed every day since
my last entry. Yesterday I was there in the afternoon but
still there was no change. This afternoon John went to the
spot and found that another young turtle was out. It came
from the same hole that the others had come by. It was about
1.30 P.M. About 1 1/2 inches of umbilical cord was hanging
underneath. I took this turtle right down to Mr. Samuel Garman
and he was pleased to get it. He will raise it. He showed
me one of this same species that he had raised, it was two
years old and yet was only about three years inches long.

The turtle that was hatched on Oct.28th we have kept in

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. the little pen mentioned above. It has remained most of the
 Nov.3. time buried in the mud. This afternoon at about 3.30 o'clock
 (No.5). John found the little creature climbing up the fine meshes of
 wire netting. It was within two inches of the top and eleven
 inches from the ground, so that now I know for a certainty
 that this was the way that the first turtle escaped, for at
 that time there was no netting over the top. I gave this
 turtle this afternoon to Miss Woodman who will rear it. The
 animal must be properly cared for and fed.

Nov.7. The turtles' hole has been visited every day since the
 last entry. Yesterday John was there at 3 A.M., but nothing
 had hatched. This morning I visited the spot at 3.30 o'clock
 and found another young turtle hatched. It was crouched
 against the side of the sieve. No umbilical cord was attach-
 ed to it. This turtle came out of the same old hole, there
 is economy in this but I do not quite see how each turtle
 knows how to work its way to the hole. The hole now measures
 at the top $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 1 inch and it descends as far as I could
 ascertain $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches at an angle of about 45 degrees. I
 could feel the bottom with a stick but could not see it. On
 Nov.3 Miss Woodman pulled the piece of shell from the mouth
 of the hole. The turtle this morning was drawn in, tail
 curled against the shell.

Cambridge, Mass.

1898. This morning I took the turtle of Nov. 7th and put it into
Nov. 8. the pond between the Museum and the house. It sank slowly
(No. 6). out of sight. We shall now see if it appears there in the
spring.

Brewster Museum,

Walter Deane.

1898

November 9

Clear, calm and warm - a typical "Indian Summer" day.

I went to Cambridge on the 7th and in the old garden there saw hair-throated Sparrows and Yellow Warblers in the afternoon of that day.

Returned to Concord by the 8.34 train this morning.
 Found the coals popping out the fields near the W. Railroad
 station & started a large coal Portledge in the latter
 cluster of farms.

Went to the Basmati room in the afternoon. A Partridge was dreaming there at night, before interviews on the floor wall in the room. Either this bird or another "cheer" almost daily in an ant-hill was the wall.

It is a common habit of the Partridge to resort to ant-hills for their purpose probably because they afford almost the only clean, dry dirt that can be found in the bog-affected woods. Gilbert saw a Partridge eating

a worms yesterday and brought in the fragment.
It plainly showed the tracks of the birds but
unfortunately it was so mutilated that Miss Hume to
whom Miss Hayes took it for identification was only
able to say that it was one of the catbird kinds.*
Miss Hume also said that she has seen Crows (as well
as crows) eating worms & that they attack only
the hawthorn leaves.

Later in the afternoon a flock of about 100 Broad
Goswells followed a minute or two later by a second flock
of fully 300 passed over the Bonanza House flying S.W.
The first flock was at an elevation of about 300 ft., the
second at an minimum height, fully $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S. thence.

Partridge eating
mushrooms

* Another better specimen; afterwards obtained by Gelpi in the same place & sent both by him to Miss Hume. To be unquestionably the same "spout" was identified by Miss Hume; "at a meeting in Boston" as Collyer Maudslayi an elderly "most delicious" bird.

Brown
C. m. l. l.

1898.

November 11. A heavy north-easter yesterday with strong wind
 a torrents of rain. Both wind & rain ceased during
 the night and early this morning the sun was shining
 dimly through thin clouds. At about 9 a.m. the
 clouds dissolved and the sun came out brightly.
 A strong W.W. wind arose at about the same
 time and the remainder of the day was mild
 and frosty with a brilliant but cold sunset.

I saw nothing of any interest yesterday although
 I went to the Bowtie farm through the woods
 as usual. This afternoon just as I was
 looking at Birch Island a flock of about
 40 Canada Geese passed high overhead coming
 from the N.W. and following the river as far
 as North Hill where, as is their almost
 invariable custom in autumn, they turned
 abruptly westward.

A few minutes later a flock of just sixty
 Crows came in the track of the Geese but
 at a much lower elevation. They crossed the
 river at nearly right angles and went off
 directly over the Bowtie farm. They were
 almost entirely ungrazing.

Before the wind rose this morning I saw on land
 a number of small birds, among others a flock
 of about fifteen Goldfinches feeding in alders
 near the river. I ~~think~~ I saw a Shrike also

1898.

November 12

Clear with light W. wind. Early morning cold the ground freezing hard and the river muds covered with thin ice. Middle of day soft & warm. Evening frosty again.

Spent the entire day at the House farm walking there from the cabin in the early morning and returning after lunch. During the morning walk I saw nothing but two or three *T. s. s. s.* and a few Chickadees, but I heard some Goldfinches calling.

About the House farm I saw a solitary Kinglet and, later in the afternoon, two flocks of Bronzed Grackles flying S.W. Without doubt they were a part of the flight that I witnessed at the same place and the same hour on the 9th but on the present occasion they were moving at a moderate height—certainly not over 300 ft. above the ground. I am now convinced that there must be a road not far off to which they go every evening. The course which they take is almost exactly in the direction of Pondokville Hill.

Bronzed
Grackles

I saw five Partridges on my walk homeward this evening, two in the House woods, three among the thick pines behind Pondokville Hill. Pat saw two others across the river this morning. Gilbert saw a *U. s. s. s.* & a *C. s. s. s.* in the river in front of the cabin at about noon.

1898.

Nov. 13-23

During this period it did not seem worth the while to keep up my journal for I saw very few birds and my daily walks were singularly barren of interesting specimens. These walks were mostly to and from the Barrett place where I have had to spend the greater part of my time superintending the work of repairing the old house and barn. Ordinarily I left the cabin at about eight o'clock in the morning and got back to it a little before dark. Sometimes I went and returned all the way by land but otherwise I would go by canoe as far as Dalin's or Davis's Mill. I varied the land routes as much as possible paying but little attention to the established paths but pushing through the most tangled thickets in the hope of finding something new. I did discover two plants not hitherto found in my woods viz Arctostaphylos uva-ursi under the Prescott pines and Chimaphila maculata in two places - on the Barrett farm behind the old barn & in the Prescott woods near the road to the grumfield. But of birds I saw almost none, even of the commoner kinds. A few Chickadees daily, a Jay or a Crow very often, a ^{or a Kinglet} ~~Mountain Linnet~~, ^{was} ~~seen~~ ^{there}, two Sparrows in small flocks occasionally & once or twice a few ^{juvies} of ~~Tit Sparrows~~ ^{or Goldfinches} are about all that I can recall now excepting Partridge which I rarely forgot to see each day. There were also a few Pine Squirrels about for I repeatedly heard their calls notes, usually in the early morning.

Apparently the migrants all passed south before the 12th but on the morning of the 21st there were indications

1898.

Nov. 13-23

of a small flight chiefly composed of Juncos and
(see 2) Fox Sparrows.

The Chickadees are comparatively scarce this autumn and the flocks are small, rarely containing more than five or six birds each and ordinarily not more than three or four. Last autumn I was with many flocks which contained ten or twelve birds each.

Chickadees
Juncos & Fox
sparrows

No vigorous winter visitors have appeared as yet. I have not seen or heard of a single Red-billed Nuthatch during the entire season.

One roving evening (that of the 19th if I remember rightly) I was passing through some pine woods (at the S. end of Davis's Swamp) when a small Owl started from a low branch and flew off through the trees with circulate, warbling flight like a flycatcher. The bird looked small enough for a Saw-whet & I thought it belonged to that species but in the dim mist-laden twilight positive identification was impossible.

Small Owl
seen at
evening

For the first time in four or five years a flock of Grackles have established themselves in my woods. Gilbert saw them first on the evening along the river path near the cabin & counted eight birds. The flock was next met with by Pat on the near the entrance to the wood road to the green field but Pat could count only six birds. On the 24th he located two in the green field and the next morning he saw six in the back pasture on the fence far just west of the green field. Probably some sportsman has killed two birds from the flock since Gilbert saw it.

Grackles at
Ruddy Field

1898.

November 26

I went to Cambridge on the 23rd and returned to the Cabin last evening. Up to yesterday the season has continued remarkably mild & open with no snow whatever and few frosts hard enough to stiffen the ground, while in the Hill farm fields buttrflies have been fluttering about & crickets chirping up to within two or three days whenever the sun shows warmly.

The change from autumn to winter came last night when the thermometer fell to about 20°. At day break this morning the meadows, now covered two or three feet deep with water, were frozen almost thickly enough to bear a man's weight and the open water in the river flowed in the deep, biting air. Just as the sun was rising a flock of five Shelducks *Goosander* came swimming past the Cabin following the edge in the river opposite of the ice on the bottom side of the river, moving very fast and diving, sometimes all practically at once, but often one immediately after another in quick succession, each bird springing quite clear of the water as it took its downward plunge. They reminded me forcibly of a school of Porpoises as they approached and disappeared making the calm water flush and sparkle in the sunlight. Apparently they had all success with their fishing for after they had passed the Cabin they all took wing and went off one the from me towards the S. W.

A few moments later a Carolina Grebe came swimming down river skirting the Cabin more closely and was entering the thicket of submerged bushes directly in front of the open door at which I was standing. I stopped

Red billed Grebe

1898

November 16

(182)

ant, clapped my hands & shouted, but the bird would not drive nor did it appear to notice me in the least for it kept steadily on its way chiefly within the belt of bushes through which it pursued a deerskin canoe moving very rapidly. Once or twice it stopped and viewed its quarry or even flapped its wings. Had I not had such a good view of it I should have doubted its being a Goshawk its behavior was so very peculiar. It was a young bird without trace of black on the throat.

I spent the day at the Barrett place. Saw nothing in the woods but a solitary Partridge and a small flock of Chickadees.

We have apparently exterminated the House Wren in the cabin - after collecting about a dozen - and the White footed Wren has returned for we found one in the traps a few days ago. We also found a Sorex which entered a trap set in the Hall over the fire place and baited with raw meat.

Wren
Shrew in
cabin

I have not seen a Hawk of any kind for over two weeks and, strange to say, I have not met with a single Shrike this autumn. Crows are unusually scarce and there are practically no Blue Jays.

Scarcity of
Hawks &
Shrikes.

The Chickadees come daily to the cabin for meat but the Downy Woodpecker neglected it to-day for the first time.

1898.

November 27

The sky cleared over early yesterday forenoon and at noon, when I came home through the fields & meadows behind Holden's Hill, there was a strong N.E. wind and the air felt like snow. It began snowing soon after dark and this morning when I awoke the ground was covered to the depth of nearly a foot and the air was still thick with the driving flakes. At 9 a. m. the sky brightened & the snow ceased falling but a little later the storm began again with redoubled energy. During the remainder of the day the snow fell almost ceaselessly but not so thickly but the wind blew a living gale from the N.E. looking the trees about on the crest of Ball's Hill and forming deep drifts in the open fields. Altho' the wind path the wind scarcely reached and the trees were laden with light, dry snow the effect, especially where there were points & hummocks, being very beautiful. By nightfall the snow measured sixteen inches deep all along this path. I have never known so heavy a fall before at this season.

Heavy
Snow Storm

The Chickadee attended the nest earnestly to-day. He foot whenever I looked out I saw from two to five or six flitting about it and helping themselves liberally by turns. Once I saw one attack & drive another away from it, a rare instance, I fancy, for ordinarily the Chickadee is one of the most unselfish and amiable of all birds. Then the Sparrows and some Goldfinches also came about the cabin and a solitary Robin came to feed on some bitter sweet berries, both in the afternoon I walked to Cousin's landing & back starting a Partridge very near the cabin.

Chickadee
guarding

1898.

Nov. 28

Clear with strong, cold N. wind. The snow melted a good deal on sheltered sunny slopes like those near the cabin but on the open fields it drifted incessantly before the high wind.

As our stock of firewood and provisions had run low and as there seemed no hope that the woods would be again accessible for sometime to come we decided, early this morning, to return to Cambridge. This was not accomplished without much difficulty & labor. Dr. Cass Benson the entire forenoon to break a road to the cabin and the road from his house to the village was barely practicable for the broad, heavy wood sled on which he took us and our effects in the early afternoon. The drifts were six or eight feet deep in many places and between Pleasant & the top of Pleasant Hill they filled the road from wall to wall and we were obliged to take to the fields where the wind had blown the snow away. We left Concord at 4.26 P.M. but our train was held at Bedford for nearly half an hour and finding that it would be nearly midnight before I could get home I went into Boston & spent the night at the Parker House.

A Robin and his Chickadees came about the cabin in the forenoon. On the way to Concord we saw a Blue Jay (near Halden's) and two flocks of Crows one containing five, the other six birds. I also heard a Brown Creeper near the house.

1898.

Dec. 8-10

I returned to Concord on the afternoon of the 7th and spent the following two days there at the Hayes'. On the 8th I went to the Barrett farm where I saw a Kinglet, a flock of eight Chickadees, a Downy Woodpecker, five Tree Sparrows, five Crows, and a Partridge. The day was sunny with a strong, cold N. W. wind. The fields were bare in most places but in the woods the ground was covered to a depth of four feet to twelve inches with heavily drifted snow.

On the 9th I drove to Green Pond to be about four miles there but lost my way and to Anger's Mills to order some slates. The weather was clear and cold with a bitter N. W. wind. The only birds noted were five Crows which were roosting about in a field on the Moore farm.

As I was passing the Concord jail the Sheriff came ^{to} ~~out~~ with a red Screech Owl which he had found dead in the only a few minutes before in one of the cells. One of the neighbors told me that she had seen the bird sitting at the window of the cell every day for a week or more past. Craig (the Sheriff) thought that the bird must have come down the chimney and entered the cell through a hole leading into the floor where a stove had formerly stood. He gave me the bird which was somewhat incriminated & had apparently died of starvation. Another red Screech Owl was picked up dead on Monument Street, Concord, December 4th by Charles Russell. Bill Bartlett showed me this bird the following day. It had a broken wing but showed no other signs of injury. It had a Horse Man in its throat, the tail & hind feet of this animal protruding from

Concord, Mass.

1898.

Dec. 8-10 a little beyond the edge of the tightly closed Grid, to
(note) is a mystery how the bird could have met its fate.

Miss Kyes is feeding the birds this winter as usual and she had a fine lot of them to show me. There were then Nuthatches (Cassin's), four Downy Woodpeckers, six Chickadees, four Blue Jays (six have been here together on one or two occasions), besides, I am sorry to add, a flock of at least thirty English Sparrows. The Nuthatches, Chickadees and Woodpeckers fed exclusively on suet, a large piece of which is kept hanging in the mountain ash in front of the dining room window. The Woodpeckers helped themselves first and while they had satisfied their appetites the smaller birds had to wait. In no instance did I see more than one bird of any kind on the suet or over time even the social & amiable little Chickadees taking their breakfast by turns. The Sparrows ate bread & suet indiscriminately but the Jays, though to say, rarely touched anything but the bread and this, Miss Kyes tells me, has been the case ever since she first attracted them to the house three or four years ago. I watched them for an hour or more both mornings and only once saw one of them attack the suet but he helped himself liberally.

On each morning the four Jays ~~that~~ come soon after sunrise and around our house or near. During this time ^{on each occasion} they make away with nearly half a loaf of bread. This had been broken up rather finely and thrown out on the lawn under the window. The Jays ate a little of it but carried off the rest filling their throats and bills just as the Canada Jays do and taking their loads into

Birds eating
suet.

Blue Jays
prefer bread
to suet.

Jays caching
bread.

Concord, Mass.

1898.

Dec. 8-10
(no 3)

a neighboring orchard (about 30 yds. from the house) where they buried most of them in the ground depositing a small piece, however, behind scales of Asa bark or in small holes or crevices of the old apple & pear trees. The fragments hidden in the ground were scattered about over spaces where the wind had drifted among the leaves. Some were merely thrust carelessly under fallen leaves or tufts of grass, others were driven into the ground by repeated powerful thrusts of the birds' bills; the pieces placed in trees were almost invariably tamped fairly down before they were left.

The jays were very tame and one presumes at the windows did not seem to disturb them in the least. It was a beautiful sight to see them hopping about on the snow bank picking up the crumbs within two or three yards of us. They seemed to be quite free from jealousy or selfishness and I did not once see one of them interfere with or threaten another although all four were often collecting their loads at the same time on a space less than a yard square. ~~They~~ ~~was~~ Nor did they molest the sparrows but the latter, I observed, did not venture to feed with them although they often alighted within a few inches of them in the trees & bushes near at hand.

On both mornings the jays remained for some time at day break in the pines west of the house but while collecting the crumbs they frequented, at all times, a perfect heaven.



